

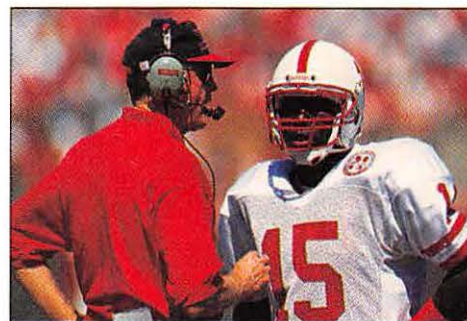
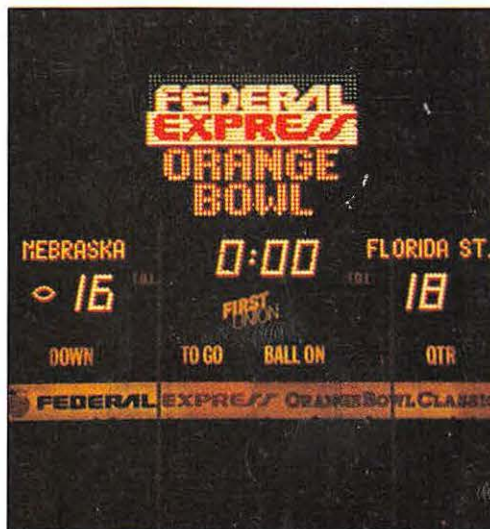
Huskers Illustrated



1993

A

QUEST FOR RESPECT



INSIDE

- 1994 Orange Bowl Review
- An In-Depth Look at the 1993 Football Season
- Comparing the 1983 and 1993 Teams
- Football Recruiting News



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Huskers Illustrated

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February 1994 • Volume 14, No. 2

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by Mike Babcock

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COVER

With the 1993 season officially behind us, *Huskers Illustrated* wanted to take this time before the big Recruiting Issue next month, to recap, highlight and explore Nebraska's exciting run at the national title. We call it "A Quest for Respect."

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ORANGE BOWL

You know that feeling when you lose \$10? Well, that's how I felt after watching the Orange Bowl. It is one thing for a team to lose a game because of being outmatched, but to have it snatched away by a few guys in white hats is ridiculous. I know that non-Huskers will just consider this whining, but the officiating in the game was horrible. My question is, why was there a Big East officiating crew working the game? It's not like they wouldn't have a few hometown heroes on the FSU sidelines.

If I was Tom Osborne, I would have wanted to see heads roll. But that's not Tom and that's great.

Cliff Taylor
Lincoln, Neb.

I'm sorry but I thought football was a game of contact. You tell me where in the rule books it says a Heisman trophy winner can't be hit. Charlie Ward may be a great athlete, but I'll bet he has nightmares with Trev Alberts coming at him. Sleep well.

Sherry Howard
Omaha, Neb.

Merry Christmas, William Floyd. I couldn't believe that the officials gave Florida State that touchdown in the third quarter. From the replay it was very apparent that the ball came loose before he was in the end zone. So what if there's no replay. Any official on the line should have been able to make the call.

Chris Jackson
St. Louis, Mo.

The only bright spot I found in the loss to Florida State was watching all the so-called sportscasters like ESPN's Lee Corso and Craig James eat crow after the game. Both had ragged on the Huskers for most of the regular season and were in rare form the week prior to the bowl. Corso went so far as to say that only four or five Huskers could even make the Florida State two deep. The day after he was picking the Huskers as his preseason No. 1 team.

This kind of mentality just goes to show that because Nebraska is not in a major media market we are dumped

on because of ignorance. Now that the world has seen Nebraska clearly outplay "the team of the century," maybe we will get a little bit more respect. Nah, probably not.

Steve Connors
Augusta, Maine

BACK TO THE FOLD

In one of your last issues you had a reply page in which you asked the readers to give opinions and send them in. Well I did. Among the problems I had with the magazine were that it is late getting to me sometimes and the price is too high.

Well, I would like to take this time to send my apologies.

During the holidays I spent time at

relatives in Tennessee. I just so happened to have my January (1994) issue. My family, strong Volunteer fans, had a copy of their school's newspaper, *Rocky Top*. They pay \$39.95 (same as me) and get 33 issues (16 more than *Huskers Illustrated*). But you know the old adage, "It's quality, not quantity that counts"? It sure does apply here. My magazine looks better, has better pictures and is more informative. Sure other magazines may have more stories, but I'd rather have a few well-written stories than 10 smaller, boring stories.

When renewal time comes, I will be back.

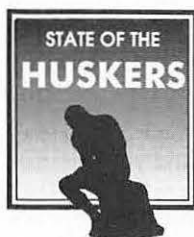
Karen Bedrick
Houston, Texas

Good Luck To The Black Shirts From The Pin-Striped, Buttoned-Down Shirts.

In our more than 130 years of business, we've cheered the Black Shirts to many a victory. And as Nebraska's oldest, largest bank with over \$3.5 billion in assets, we will be around to witness many, many more. Best of luck this season from your fans at First National Bank of Omaha.



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Huskers Content With Using 1993 Season As Confidence Booster

On the quiet bus ride from the Orange Bowl stadium to the Nebraska football team's headquarters at the Sheraton Bal Harbour on Miami Beach, Coach Tom Osborne reminded Barron Miles of what had happened to Colorado.

The Buffaloes lost to Notre Dame, 21-6, in the 1990 Orange Bowl game. The next year, they returned to Miami and defeated Notre Dame in the 1991 Orange Bowl game 10-9 to earn the mythical national championship.

Miles, a cornerback, is a junior. He could have another chance to play for the national title.

"This loss doesn't mean we can't come back," Osborne told reporters the next morning.

In fact, despite the loss, the Cornhuskers might be expected to be in the same situation next year. There's a good chance they'll be No. 1 in at least some preseason rankings.

A high ranking in the preseason can be important when pursuing a national championship. West Virginia could attest to that.

If the Mountaineers had been more highly regarded early, their 11-0 regular-season record might have been enough to put them in the Orange Bowl game against Nebraska.

There's also a good chance Nebraska will have an opportunity to play in one of two preseason games, either the Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J., or the Pigskin Classic in Anaheim, Calif.

Nebraska played in the first Kickoff Classic in August of 1983, defeating Penn State 44-6. The Cornhuskers returned in 1988, after a mandatory five-year absence, and defeated Texas A&M 23-14. Nebraska has never played in the Pigskin Classic.

After the Orange Bowl loss to Florida State, which defeated Kansas in the Kickoff Classic to begin its national championship season, Osborne said there had been discussions between Nebraska and the two preseason games.

Adding another game to an

already lengthy schedule isn't all that appealing, but it's difficult to turn down the additional revenue such a game offers. A season can be ruined before it gets started by a loss.

Kansas was a team with bowl potential. But the Jayhawks couldn't recover quickly enough from their 42-0 loss in the Kickoff Classic and had to stay home for the holidays.

Photo by Scott Smith



FSU's Bobby Bowden may have earned the Orange Bowl trophy and national title, but Tom Osborne feels Nebraska earned more in many respects.

Osborne probably wouldn't even consider playing in one of the games without an experienced quarterback returning. He's certainly got that in Tommie Frazier, who will be a junior and third-year starter.

Frazier, short-changed in the balloting for first-team All-Big Eight this season, should emerge as the best quarterback in the conference.

Nebraska re-established itself as a player in the championship field, after four seasons of finishing out of the nation's Top 10. After the 1988 season, when the Cornhuskers finished 10th-ranked, their finishes in the AP poll have been: 11th, 24th, 15th and 14th. In the coaches' poll during that stretch, Nebraska has finished ranked 12th, 17th, 16th and 14th.

During a news conference the week before the Orange Bowl, Osborne was asked if he considered

the game a "defining moment" in his career.

"I hope not," he said. "I've done this for 31 years, and I hope it does not come down to one game."

Even though Osborne is the winningest active football coach in Division I-A of the NCAA, he has yet to be voted a national champion. The closest one of his teams has come was after the 1983 season, when the Cornhuskers were ranked No. 2 in both major polls after losing to Miami, 31-24, in the 1984 Orange Bowl game.

"So far, the 1984 game is seen as that defining moment," Osborne said. "But I'm not obsessed with winning. If we play well matters."

"If we win and don't play well, I won't be as happy as if we play well. And if we lose, we need to put it in perspective."

Osborne is only 56 years old. Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, No. 2 among active NCAA Division I-A coaches in victories, is 64.

There's no reason to think that by the time Osborne reaches the age of his coaching friend, he won't have had another opportunity or two to play for the title.

Osborne's 1983 team finished second in both major polls. His 1982 team, with only a controversial loss at Penn State in the third game of the season, finished third in both. His 1984 team finished No. 3 in the coaches poll and No. 4 in the media poll.

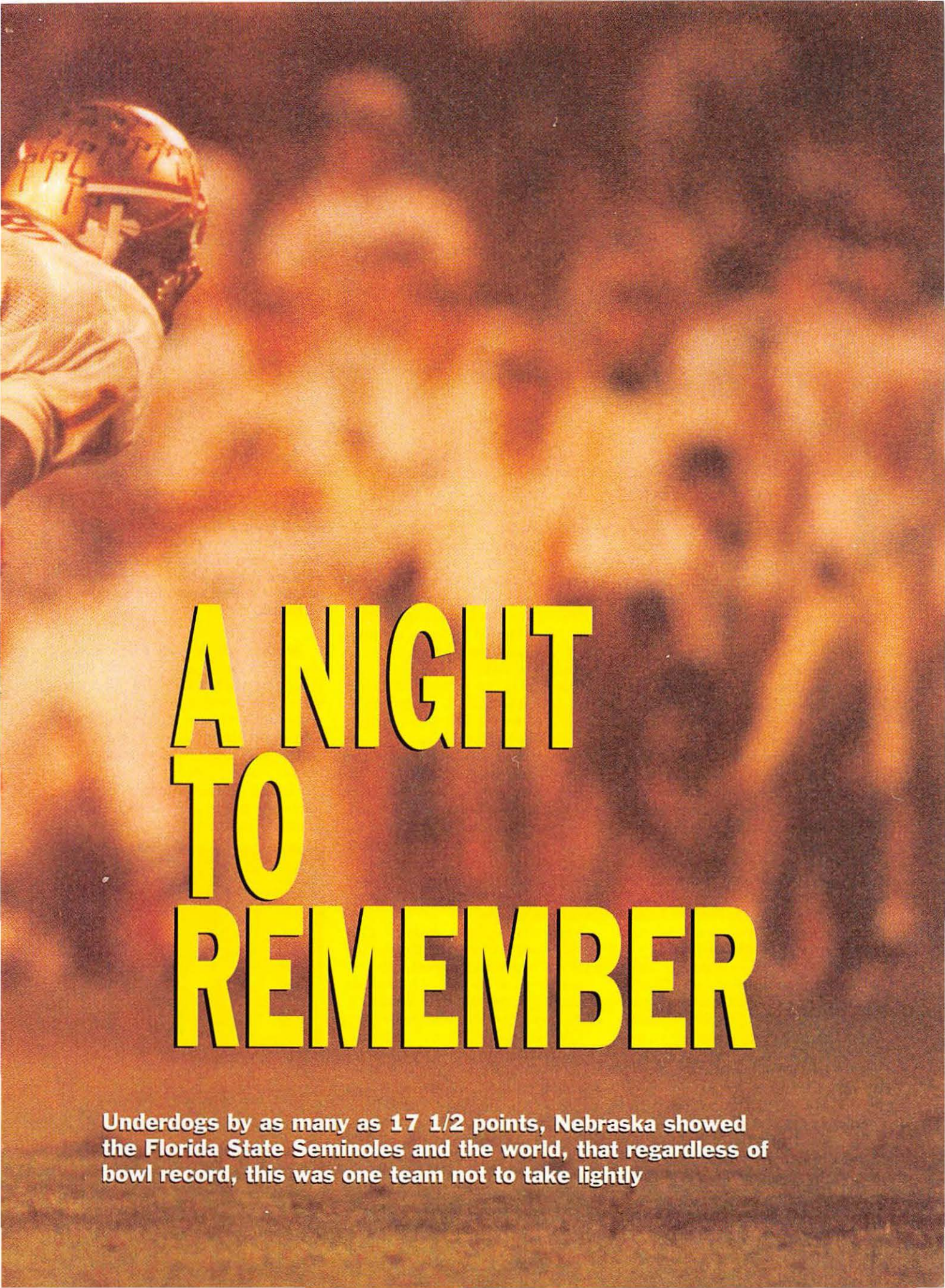
Those three teams were Osborne's best. Now, a fourth has been added. "This has been one of the more enjoyable years we've had," he said.

"In terms of tenacity and cohesiveness, it's probably the best group I've coached. I don't think we were necessarily the most talented team, but I'm really proud of the way we hung together through the year."

What happened this season could have a significant, positive, effect on 1994. "This can be a confidence builder," Osborne said.

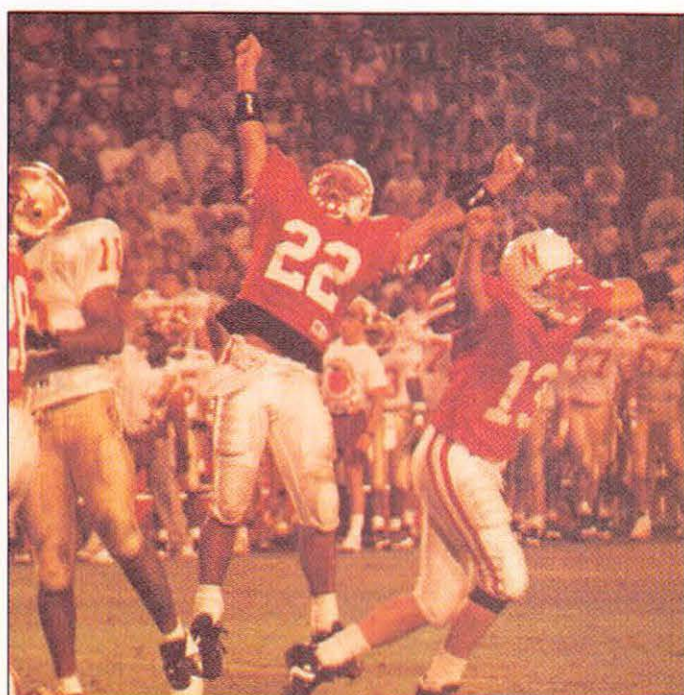
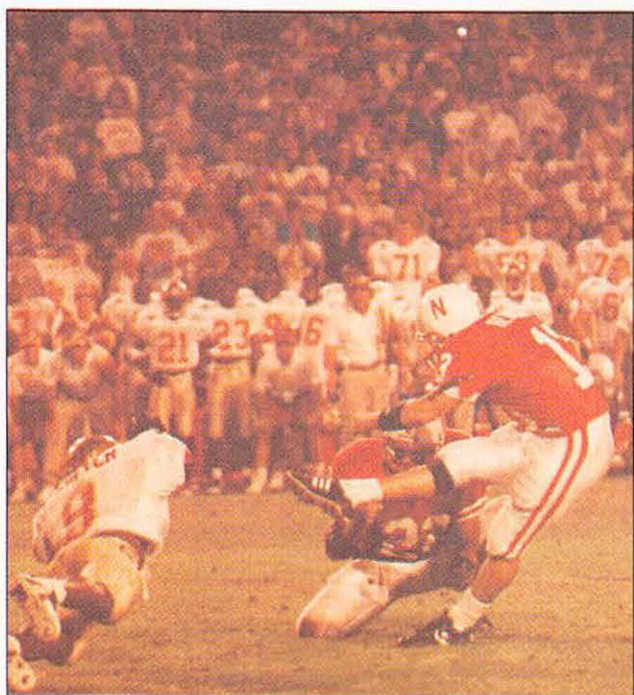
That was his message to Miles and all of the other Cornhuskers who will return next season. ■





A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Underdogs by as many as 17 1/2 points, Nebraska showed the Florida State Seminoles and the world, that regardless of bowl record, this was one team not to take lightly



Orange Bowl photos by Scott Smith

It ended with Byron Bennett's 45-yard field goal attempt sailing wide to the left, as the final second ticked off the clock. That one second had been put there by officials, after conferring with the game statistician and after Florida State had celebrated its first national championship.

As it turned out, the celebration, which included the dousing of Coach Bobby Bowden and jubilant Seminole players spilling onto the field, was premature.

It was a memorable finish, to a memorable Orange Bowl game that was supposed to be forgettable.

There may never be a more memorable Orange Bowl game than the one played on Jan. 1, 1994, in fact.

When it was finished, the scoreboard behind the goal posts where Bennett's kick missed, said: Florida State 18, Nebraska 16. But "as far as I'm concerned, we won," Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne said.

Take away 55 seconds, and Nebraska would have won. That's the amount of time Charlie Ward, the 1993 Heisman Trophy winner, needed to take Florida State to victory.

With 1:16 remaining, Bennett kicked a 27-yard field, to cap a nine-play, 71-yard drive to give the Cornhuskers a 16-15 lead.

But Ward responded by leading Florida State on an eight-play, 60-yard drive, culminating in a 22-yard field goal by Scott Bentley, a freshman from Aurora, Colo., with 21 seconds left.

The field goal was Bentley's fourth of the game and provided a symbolic finish to the season. Bentley, a much-publicized recruit, was featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated's* college football annual in August.

"Freshman kicker Scott Bentley gives No. 1 Florida State the winning edge," the headline said.

And so he did.

More than 90 schools offered Bentley a scholarship, according to *Sports Illustrated*. He was worth a national title to Florida State.

Bentley was recruited to end the frustration of "wide right."

Last season, Seminole place-kicker Dan Mowrey missed a 38-yard, game-winning field goal against Miami, wide right. In 1991, Seminole place-kicker Gerry Thomas also missed a game-winning field goal against the intrastate rival Hurricanes, wide right.

Both wide-right misses cost Florida State a chance to play for the mythical national championship.

Bentley's kick with 21 seconds remaining went through. Bennett's, with one second left, went wide left.

"We've lost national championships, we thought, by missing kicks," Seminole Coach Bobby Bowden said. "Tonight, we won a national championship by making a kick. That might be the first game we've won by a field goal — since I don't know."

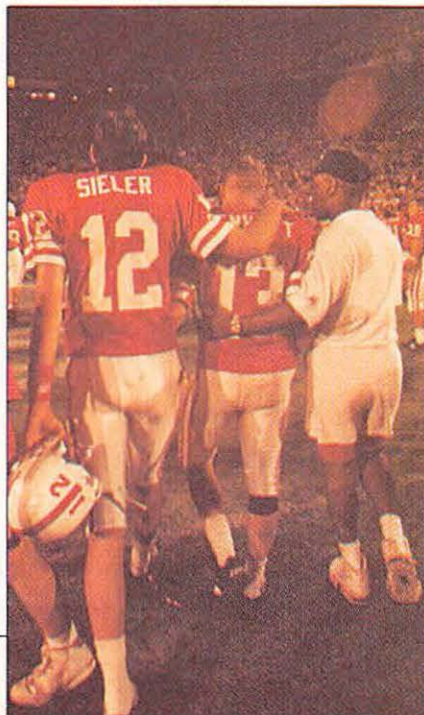
"It's hard to believe you won the doggone ball game. Every time I looked up, somebody else was winning. It was just our time."

Nebraska emotions went from wild, after Byron Bennett (13) hit this 27-yard field goal with 1:16 remaining to put NU ahead 16-15, to a feeling of being robbed (below) after a 45-yard attempt sailed wide left as time expired.

Bentley, whose earlier field goals were from 34, 25 and 39 yards, won the game with a kick. But Bennett didn't lose it with a miss.

"I feel sorry for Byron, because you're either the hero or the dirt-ball," said Cornhusker outside linebacker Trev Alberts.

"Byron Bennett did not lose the game for us, by any stretch. If we would've held them defensively, the



game would've been over."

But Florida State refused to concede, driving 60 yards, helped by Nebraska penalties, and giving Bentley his chance to win the game.

Ward completed 2-of-5 passes in that final drive, both to freshman tailback Warrick Dunn, a 9-yarder on a second-and-10 from his own 35, and a 21-yarder on a first-and-10 from his 46-yard line. Florida State gained 15 more yards after the second completion when Cornhusker cornerback Barron Miles was penalized for a push out of bounds.

One play later, on second down from the Nebraska 18-yard line, the Cornhuskers' Toby Wright was called for pass interference against Kez McCorvey, giving Florida State a first-and-goal at the Cornhusker 3-yard line.

Seminole tailback Sean Jackson was tackled for a 2-yard loss by Wright and Kevin Ramaekers. Bowden used his final timeout, with 24 seconds remaining, to send in Bentley.

"We played so well and did so many things right, it hurts that we

didn't hold up our end of the bargain at the end," Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said.

"We had some tough breaks, and maybe I didn't make the right calls. Breaks are going to happen, but we sure seemed to have them all skip away from us and help them out quite a bit.

"I'd like to think any of those mistakes were made by being aggressive and playing our hearts out. Our kids never played harder, or better," said McBride.

BEST & WORST OF THE BOWL EXPERIENCE

Favorite Activity of Players: Walking on the beach and hanging out in the hotel rooms.

Best Beach Spot: Around the pool at the Sheraton Bel Harbor.

Best Food: Subway sandwich shop on Collins Avenue. It satisfied the big appetites at a Midwest price.

Biggest Disappointment for Players: Lack of European women on the beach.

Strangest Behavior: While playing in the ocean, some of the players took to throwing jellyfish at one another. Luckily no one was hurt.

Understatement of the Week: Coach Dan Young returned ticket manager Joe Selig's golf clubs with an apology for not having had time to clean the clubs. Selig took his clubs out the next day and found several thousand dollars worth of Miami real estate clinging to his pitching wedge.

Best Orange Bowl Official: Doctor Tony Rodriguez is a Cuban born immigrant who went to school as a youngster in Omaha and then moved to Miami where he is a practicing radiologist. Rodriguez proved to be a true Big Red fan as evidenced by his worn out Herby Husker head cover in his golf bag.

Biggest Sigh of Relief: No Huskers fans were car-jacked, stabbed, shot or mugged.

False Ominous Sign: The horse shoe attached to the wall above the exit in the south stadium locker room was transported to the Orange Bowl and was hung in the locker room. It fell down the night before the game.

Worst "Neutral" Fans: Several hundred Orange Bowl halftime participants were seated in the end zone bleachers between the Florida State and Nebraska marching bands. The multi-colored celebrants remained still during the Husker fight song, and became a charged clapping throng when the Florida State fight song rang out.

Best Weather: Mother Nature's performance graded an A+ during Nebraska's stay. It started out cool and breezy early in the visit, but gradually warmed up. The steady increase helped ease the Northerners into the heat and humidity.



Who said NU faithful wouldn't show at the Orange Bowl?

Worst Call: It would have to be a four-way tie between the phantom clip on Corey Dixon's punt return, the Florida State "touchdown" scored by a fullback who forgot the football, Kevin Ramaekers' roughing of the porcelain doll playing quarterback for FSU and the hideously-vicious late hit perpetrated by Nebraska during FSU's final drive.

Best One Liner: NBC sideline reporter O.J. Simpson asked Tom Osborne as the coach was going to the locker room at halftime what he was going to do to compensate for the loss of Calvin Jones and Abdul Muhammad (both suffered game-ending injuries in the first half). Osborne replied, "I don't know Juice? Do you want to come in the locker room and suit up?"

Toughest Guy: Abdul Muhammad walked off the field as if nothing had happened to him after he had broken two ribs and lacerated his liver on a hit. Reports are that Muhammad is doing well.

Worst Case of Sportsmanship: Florida State defensive end Derrick Alexander stood in front of the Nebraska sideline yelling and swearing at Ron Brown as Brown tried to get the official's attention to move the ball forward to the correct spot for the final field goal attempt.

Most Shameless Politicking: Bobby Bowden was so worried about Notre Dame skipping ahead of FSU in the polls that after the Orange Bowl he told ESPN's Lee Corso and Craig James that "Notre Dame deserves to be No. 2." Bowden was remiss not to mention that Nebraska had made a fine showing and had basically spanked the Seminoles up and down the field in the second half.

Best Pain Killer: Nearly 1,200 boisterous Nebraska fans crowded the Lincoln airport to welcome home the Huskers at 1:30 a.m. Monday following the game. The fans chanted, "We're No. 1," and offered handshakes and high fives as smiling team members exited the plane. ■

ORANGE BOWL ITEMS

INJURY UPDATE

Three Cornhuskers suffered serious injuries during the Orange Bowl game: I-back Calvin Jones, wingback Abdul Muhammad and linebacker Lorenzo Brinkley.

Jones suffered a sprained left shoulder as well as damage to his rotator cuff during the second quarter. He left the game after carrying nine times for 28 yards.

Muhammad was hospitalized after suffering bruised ribs and a lacerated liver while attempting to catch an I-back pass thrown by Jones on the second play of the second quarter.

Brinkley suffered a broken right arm while tackling Florida State fullback William Floyd in the fourth quarter. Brinkley's arm was expected to be in a cast for a month.

Mike Minter, a redshirt freshman and the No. 2 rover behind Toby Wright, played despite suffering a strained left knee during practice on the Thursday before the game.

WILL HE OR WON'T HE?

After the game, and before, Jones was asked if he planned to bypass his senior season at Nebraska and try his luck in the NFL draft.

The Cornhuskers' No. 2 all-time leading rusher, behind Mike Rozier, planned to make an announcement soon after returning to Lincoln.

IN THE BOOKS

Reggie Baul's touchdown, on a 34-yard pass play from Tommie Frazier for Nebraska's first points, was also the first touchdown of his Cornhusker career. Baul is a sophomore.

HUSKER FAVORITES

The officiating crew from the Big East Conference included: referee John Soffey, umpire Carl Crawley, head linesman Donald S. Guman, line judge Nick Trainer, field judge George Cullen, side judge Roger Parramore and back judge James Anderson.

Coach Tom Osborne declined to comment on the officiating. "There's nothing I can do about it now," he said. "I'm prohibited from commenting on officiating, and besides, I have the worst seat in the house."

Cornhusker outside linebacker and co-captain Trev Alberts, however, did comment, to reporters immediately after the game. "I'm not the type of person (to complain), but honestly,

they were the worst I've ever seen in my life," Alberts said.

"You guys can't all see it, but every time we touched Charlie Ward, we were getting screamed at. It seemed like they wanted to protect him real bad for the basketball season. I don't know what it was, but he was like their little baby out there. That's part of the deal, I guess."

WHERE'S THE JUSTICE?

The Cornhuskers were penalized 11 times, for 115 yards, significantly more than Florida State lost because of penalties (10 for 69). "That's a lot of penalties," Osborne said.

TERRIFIC TURNOUT

The crowd of 81,536 was an Orange Bowl game record, breaking the previous mark set in the 1990 game between Colorado and Notre Dame.

More than 700 sets of credentials were issued to news media outlets covering the game, and that total didn't include 135 passes issued to NBC, which telecast the game.

"This is more than two times as many press people as we had a year ago and more than ever before," said Lisa Franson, the Orange Bowl's director of communications.

More than 50 requests for media credentials were turned down.

More than two-thirds of the 62 who voted in the weekly Associated Press Top 25 poll were on hand.

ORANGE FUTURE?

The Orange Bowl's agreement with the Big Eight Conference is set to expire after the Jan. 1, 1995 game. However, the Orange Bowl is interested in renewing the contract, according to Bob Epling, Orange Bowl president.

On getting the national title matchup between Nebraska and Florida State, Epling said: "I guess it's better to be lucky than good."

The No. 1 versus No. 2 matchup was the third in Orange Bowl history. Nebraska, No. 1, defeated Alabama, No. 2, 38-6 in the 1972 game, and Oklahoma, No. 1, lost to Miami, No. 2, 20-14 in the 1988 Orange Bowl game.

The victory was Florida State's ninth in a row in a bowl game, an NCAA record. The Seminoles extended their bowl unbeaten streak to 12.

Florida State led the nation in total offense and scoring, averaging 548 yards and 43.2 points per game. The Seminoles ranked sixth in the nation in passing offense and 19th in rushing.

But against Nebraska, they managed only the four field goals by Bentley and a touchdown early in the third quarter, on a 1-yard plunge by fullback William Floyd.

The touchdown, which capped a seven-play, 67-yard drive on the first series of the second half, was allowed even though Floyd fumbled. Officials ruled the ball had broken the plane of the goal before the fumble.

Nebraska's defense went after the Seminoles, and Ward, in particular, making them pay the price for each of their 333 total yards, only 47 of which came on the ground. Ward completed 24-of-43 passes for the rest (286).

But the Cornhuskers got to him, sacking him five times, three of them involving Alberts. Florida State had allowed only 10 sacks all season.

Alberts gave a remarkable performance, despite the lingering effects of a dislocated elbow, suffered early in the Oklahoma game.

The head-to-head matchup with Florida State outside linebacker Derrick Brooks, a finalist for the Butkus Award won by Alberts, was no contest, in Alberts' favor.

During a news conference the week before the game, Florida State defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews predicted Brooks would have "a greater impact Saturday night than he's had since the fifth ballgame."

Brooks was credited with one tackle in the Orange Bowl game.

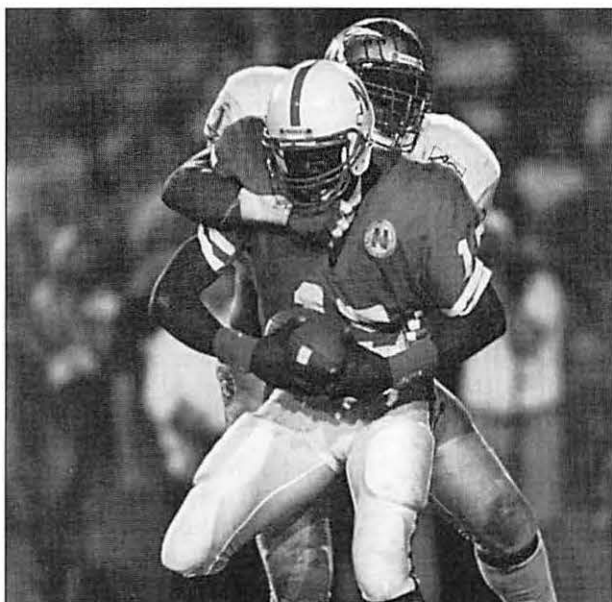
"They had an unbelievable pass rush," said McCorvey, who caught five passes for 70 yards. "This was the most I've seen Charlie get sacked. They put a lot of pressure on him."

"The receivers were breaking free, but they were in his face."

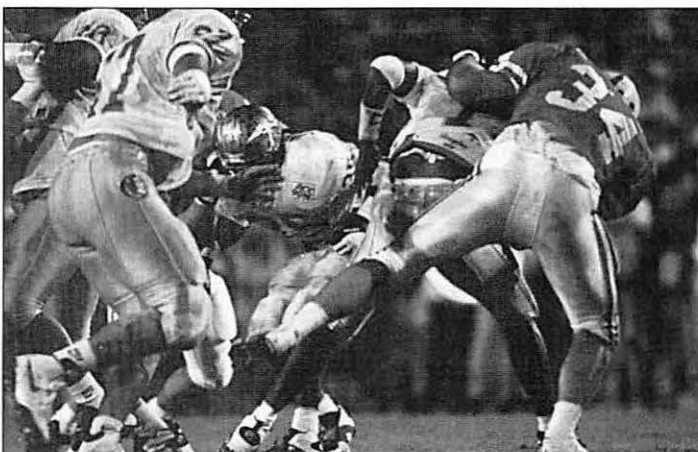
The aggressiveness in the Cornhuskers' game plan might help to explain their being penalized 11 times for 115 yards, Osborne said.

Florida State converted on only one of 12 third downs, and on only one of four fourth-down situations — that one was crucial, however, coming on the Seminoles' game-winning drive.

Nebraska started slowly on offense, but as the game wore on, the Florida State defense wore down



The Seminoles knew going into the game they would have trouble containing Tommie Frazier (left) and Trev Alberts (middle), but it was the Husker ground game and Lawrence Phillips (below) that almost broke FSU's back in the fourth quarter.



under the pounding of the Cornhuskers' offensive line. That was the plan going into the game, according to Nebraska offensive guard Rob Zatechka.

Before the game, Zatechka said the way to deal with the Seminoles was "to keep pounding them, muscle them, and pound them some more."

And that's what the Cornhusker offensive line did. By the fourth quarter, Florida State was faltering. Nebraska rushed for more than 100 of its yards in the fourth quarter, with freshman I-back Lawrence Phillips gaining 47 of those yards.

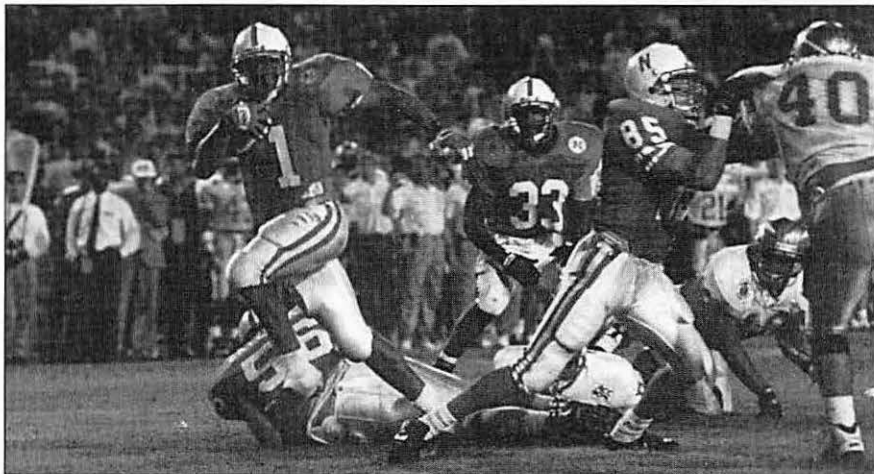
Phillips was the third I-back to play for the Cornhuskers, following Damon Benning, also a freshman, after Calvin Jones was sidelined in the second quarter by a shoulder injury.

Frazier, chosen by NBC television as Nebraska's Player of the Game, was the key element of the offense, rushing for 77 yards and completing 13-of-24 passes for 206 yards and one touchdown.

The touchdown put the Cornhuskers on the scoreboard with 5:59 remaining in the first half, and was one of the few times during the game that a break went their way.

On a second-and-nine, Frazier threw a pass intended for Clester Johnson. The ball deflected off the Seminoles' Devin Bush and into Baul's hands at about the Florida State 13.

Nebraska celebrated what it thought was its first touchdown much earlier, after Corey Dixon returned a punt 71 yards for an apparent score, late in the first quarter, only to have the play nullified by



Both of the final polls contain first-place votes in parentheses, 1993 record, total points based on 25 points for first through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking

USA Today/CNN Football Poll

1. Florida St. (36)	12-1-0	1,523	3
2. Notre Dame (25)	11-1-0	1,494	4
3. Nebraska (1)	11-1-0	1,441	1
4. Florida	11-2-0	1,313	8
5. Wisconsin	10-1-1	1,271	7
6. West Virginia	11-1-0	1,142	2
7. Penn St.	10-2-0	1,132	12
8. Texas A&M	10-2-0	1,106	6
9. Arizona	10-2-0	1,094	14
10. Ohio St.	10-1-1	960	10
11. Tennessee	9-2-1	891	5
12. Boston College	9-3-0	828	15
13. Alabama	9-3-1	742	18
14. Oklahoma	9-3-0	636	16
15. Miami	9-2-0	604	9
16. Colorado	8-3-1	586	17
17. UCLA	8-4-0	539	13
18. Kansas St.	9-2-1	523	19
19. Michigan	8-4-0	496	22
20. Virginia Tech	9-3-0	472	20
21. N. Carolina	10-3-0	452	11
22. Clemson	9-3-0	240	23
23. Louisville	9-3-0	214	25
24. California	9-4-0	158	—
25. Southern Cal	8-4-0	121	—

AP Associated Press Top 25

1. Florida St. (46)	12-1-0	1,532	1
2. Notre Dame (12)	11-1-0	1,478	4
3. Nebraska	11-1-0	1,418	2
4. Auburn (4)	11-0-0	1,375	5
5. Florida	11-2-0	1,307	8
6. Wisconsin	10-1-1	1,228	9
7. West Virginia	11-1-0	1,090	3
8. Penn St.	10-2-0	1,074	13
9. Texas A&M	10-2-0	1,043	7
10. Arizona	10-2-0	992	16
11. Ohio St.	10-1-1	971	11
12. Tennessee	9-2-1	870	6
13. Boston College	9-3-0	817	15
14. Alabama	9-3-1	685	18
15. Miami	9-3-0	611	10
16. Colorado	8-3-1	574	17
17. Oklahoma	9-3-0	521	19
18. UCLA	8-4-0	460	14
19. N. Carolina	10-3-0	453	12
20. Kansas St.	9-2-1	444	20
21. Michigan	8-4-0	393	23
22. Virginia Tech	9-3-0	321	22
23. Clemson	9-3-0	164	24
24. Louisville	9-3-0	159	25
25. California	9-4-0	79	—

a penalty against Tyrone Williams for pushing a Florida State tackler from behind.

A television replay showed that Williams had not been guilty.

It wasn't the last time a break would go against the Cornhuskers.

After the game, Alberts, a Nebraska co-captain, said he was "absolutely amazed by some of the officiating. I think it was the worst I've ever seen. I'm not the type of player that blames stuff on that. I guess that's part of the game, but it didn't seem like we got any calls."

Bentley cut the Cornhuskers' lead to 7-6 with his second field goal, with 29 seconds left in the half. After Floyd's touchdown, which was followed by an unsuccessful 2-point

conversion, Bentley kicked his third field goal to make the score 15-7 with 3:06 remaining in the third quarter.

Phillips scored Nebraska's second touchdown, on a 12-yard run to cap a seven-play, 73-yard drive, with 14:55 remaining in the game, setting the stage for the dramatic finish.

Frazier took the Cornhuskers from their own 20-yard line to the Florida State 22 midway through the fourth quarter, but on a third-and-15 from the Seminole 29, he threw the second of two interceptions.

Four plays later, Nebraska had the ball back, at its own 20, to begin the drive that preceded Bennett's successful field goal kick.

The key plays in the drive included a 17-yard run by Phillips, an 11-yard pass from Frazier to Johnson and a 32-yard run by Frazier. The

Cornhuskers never faced a third down until the play before the field goal.

By that point in the game, the experts said, Nebraska was supposed to have folded under pressure from a team that had been described as the greatest in college football history before its 31-24 loss at Notre Dame.

The Cornhuskers were heavy underdogs, by 17 1/2 points and more. But no one was trashing them when the final second sailed to the left of the up-rights with Bennett's kick.

"Nebraska deserved to win it," Bowden said. "They deserved to win it as much as we did. Nebraska is a lot better than I thought."

The Cornhuskers were a lot better than anyone thought. ■



Brought to you by Security Mutual Life

MIAMI — With 1:16 remaining in the Orange Bowl game, Byron Bennett gave Nebraska the national title by kicking a 27-yard field goal.

But, less than a minute later, Charlie Ward took the title away.

Actually, Florida State's Scott Bentley, a freshman from Aurora, Colo., deprived Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne of his first national championship by kicking a 22-yard field goal with 21 seconds remaining in the game.

But it was Ward, the Heisman Trophy winner, who gave Bentley and the Seminoles the opportunity to win.

Ward took his team from its own 35-yard line all the way to the Cornhusker 3-yard line before Florida State used its final timeout with 24 seconds remaining and the ball at the Nebraska 5-yard line.

On first-and-goal at the Nebraska 3, Seminole tailback Sean Jackson was tackled for a 2-yard loss by Kevin Ramaekers and Toby Wright.

Ward completed 2-of-5 passes, with pass interference being called on another, in the scoring drive. Both of the completions were to freshman tailback Warrick Dunn, the first for 9 yards, the second for 21.

"If we had it to do again, there is a tendency to be conservative. (So) maybe, we'd want to come with more pressure — all or nothing," Osborne said. "We were getting good pressure with a four-man rush.

They made a play or two, but they also got to start at their 35-yard line, and with the penalties, that killed us."

Florida State's winning series began at the Seminole 35-yard line because Bennett's kickoff, following his field goal, went out of bounds.

Bennett had been instructed to kick away from Florida State's speedy Tamarick Vanover, "and he ended up kicking the ball out of bounds," said Osborne, who had difficulty finding Bennett after the field goal.

"We thought we'd have a TV timeout there," Osborne said.

A television timeout would have provided the Cornhuskers with more time to prepare for the kickoff. "It was the first time all night after a score that there wasn't a break of two, three or five minutes," Osborne said.

Florida State's celebration following Bentley's fourth field goal of the game proved a bit premature, and cost the Seminoles a 15-yard penalty, as Nebraska refused to quit.

Barron Miles returned the kickoff 23 yards, to the Nebraska 43, and after Trumane Bell couldn't hold a Tommie Frazier pass on first down, he caught another and gained 29 yards as the final seconds disappeared.

After Bell was tackled, inside the Florida State 30-yard line, the Seminoles ran onto the field in celebra-

tion and doused coach Bobby Bowden. But the officials determined that the clock should have stopped for the first down with one second left.

Nebraska then used its final timeout. The field was cleared, and after the officials conferred and checked with the game statistician, the ball was spotted at the Seminole 28.

Bennett came on to attempt a game-winning field goal.

Aaron Graham snapped the ball; David Seizys set it down, and Bennett gave his best shot, trying to make certain the ball wouldn't be short. It sailed to the left, and the final second ticked off the clock.

"They had pretty good penetration, and I think that altered my kick a little bit," said Bennett, a senior from Rowlett, Texas.

"I could just feel them, and any time a kicker can feel it coming, you sometimes may try to hook it or something like that. You've got to give Florida State credit.

"They put on a good rush at the end, and they might've made me pull the ball a little to the left."

Bennett responded to reporters' questions after the game with the class that characterized Nebraska.

"I've waited all my life to kick a game-winning field goal, and unfortunately, it didn't happen," Bennett said. "I thought I had it in the bag, and you've got to give Florida State credit." ■

vs FLORIDA STATE STATISTICS

January 1, 1994 ORANGE BOWL



FLORIDA STATE 18 • NEBRASKA 16

TEAM STATS

	NU	FSU
First Downs	20	22
Rushing	8	4
Passing	11	12
Penalty	1	6
Rushing Attempts	44	24
Yards Gained Rushing	212	96
Yards Lost Rushing	29	49
Net yards rushing	183	47
Net yards passing	206	286
Passes attempted	25	43
Passes completed	13	24
Had intercepted	2	0
Total plays	69	67
Total net yards	389	333
Avg. gain per play	5.6	5.0
Return yards	18	21
Fumbles: lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties: yards	11-115	10-69
Interceptions: yards	0-0	2-21
Punts: yards	7-269	6-271
Avg. per punt	38.4	45.2
Punt Returns: yards	4-18	0-0
Kickoff Returns: yards	5-11	3-81
Possession Time	32:57	27:03
Third-Down Conv.	7-16	1-12
Sacks By	5-39	1-4

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Tds
Frazier	14	77	5.5	77	0
Phillips	13	64	4.9	17	1
Jones	9	28	3.1	9	0
Benning	2	7	3.5	5	0

FLORIDA STATE

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Tds
Floyd	7	53	7.6	34	1
Ward	8	-5	-6	23	0

PASSING

Player	Att./Comp.	Int.	Yds.	Tds
Frazier	24/13	2	206	1

FLORIDA STATE

Player	Att./Comp.	Int.	Yds.	Tds
Ward	43/24	0	286	0

RECEIVING

Player	No.	Yds.	Long	Tds.
Bell	4	75	29	0
Dixon	3	50	26	0
Johnson	3	40	25	0
Baul	1	34	34	1

SCORE BY QUARTER

FSU	0	6	9	3	— 18
NU	0	7	0	9	— 16

FLORIDA STATE (Receiving Cont.)

Player	No.	Yds.	Long	Tds.
Knox	5	99	41	0
McCorvey	5	70	22	0
Vanover	6	48	14	0
Frier	5	46	13	0

FIELD GOALS

NEBRASKA

Player	Att.	Comp.	Long
Bennett	2	1	27

FLORIDA STATE

Player	Att.	Comp.	Long
Bentley	5	4	47

PUNTING

NEBRASKA

Player	No.	Avg.	Yds.	Long
Bennett	7	38.4	269	56

FLORIDA STATE

Player	No.	Avg.	Yds.	Long
Liss	6	45.2	271	63

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA

Player	Tackles		Sacks	Int.
	Solo	Asst.		
Wright	4	2	0	0
Brinkley	3	0	0	0
Reece	6	1	1	0
T. Williams	8	1	0	0
Minter	1	0	0	0
Miles	8	0	0	0
Stewart	2	0	0	0
Alberts	4	1	3	0
Anderson	4	1	0	0
Peter	1	0	0	0
Ramaekers	1	1	0	0
Harris	1	0	1	0
Connealy	3	2	0	0

FLORIDA STATE

Player	Tackles		Sacks	Int.
	Solo	Asst.		
Abraham	5	0	0	1
Bush	6	5	0	0
Coes	6	2	0	1
Knight	4	0	0	0
K. Alexander	4	1	0	0
Rebol	2	1	0	0
Nance	4	2	0	0
D. Alexander	8	3	0	0
McIntosh	4	0	0	0

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

NET RUSHING YARDS

183



47



NET PASSING YARDS

206



286



TOTAL OFFENSE

389



333



PENALTIES

11-115



10-69



TURNOVER MARGIN

Minus 2



Plus 2



POSSESSION TIME

32:57



27:03



THIRD-DOWN CONVERSION

7 of 16



1 of 12

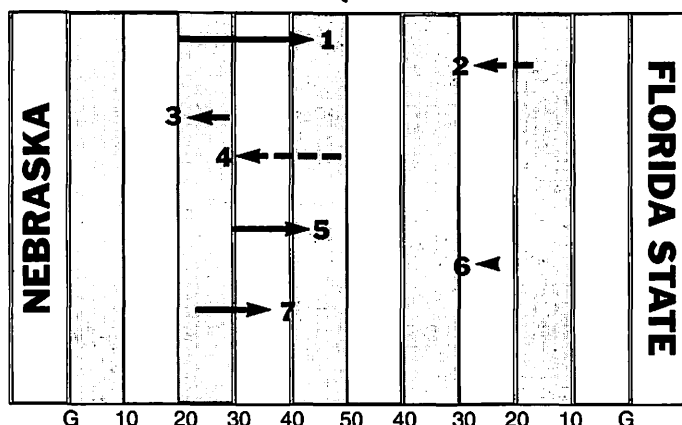


1994 ORANGE BOWL DRIVE CHARTS

The Florida State Seminoles won the coin toss and declined. Nebraska elected to receive and FSU defended the east goal. What unfolded was one of the best national title games in many years. We have used solid lines to indicate Nebraska drives and dotted lines for FSU. Highlights (and lowlights) of each drive are included below each graph. Drives that appear to be going the wrong way designate drives that resulted in lost yardage.

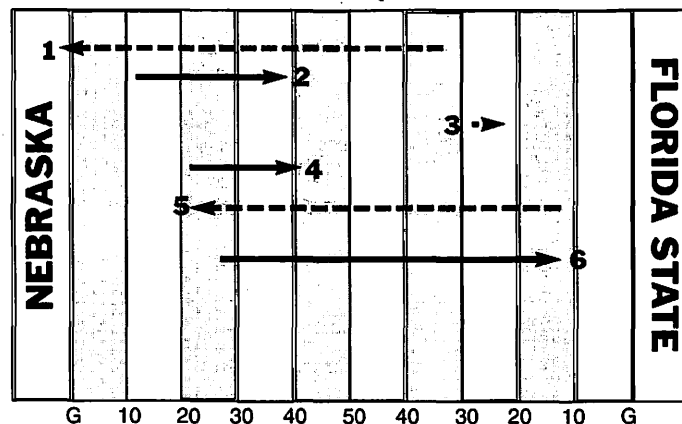
NEBRASKA

FIRST QUARTER



- 1) After Corey Dixon downed the kickoff for a touchback, NU mixed up running plays on both ends before punting on fourth-and-2 at its 44.
- 2) Charlie Ward came up a yard short on third-and-11 and FSU punted.
- 3) Calvin Jones was popped in the backfield after a screen pass and lost 7 yards on third down to force another punt.
- 4) Ward came out throwing from his 49-yard line and completed four of five passes for 32 yards before Trev Alberts and Terry Conneally teamed on a monster sack that resulted in a loss of 12 yards. Scott Bentley attempted a 47-yard field goal from the 30, but it hooked wide left.
- 5) Nebraska had trouble sustaining momentum as only runs by Jones (9 around the left) and Frazier (keeper for 5) net positive yardage. Bennett punted from his 41.
- 6) Three straight incomplete passes forced FSU to punt from its 24.
- 7) The Huskers open its fourth possession by taking a sack on first down. Frazier came right back with a 12-yard scramble on second down.

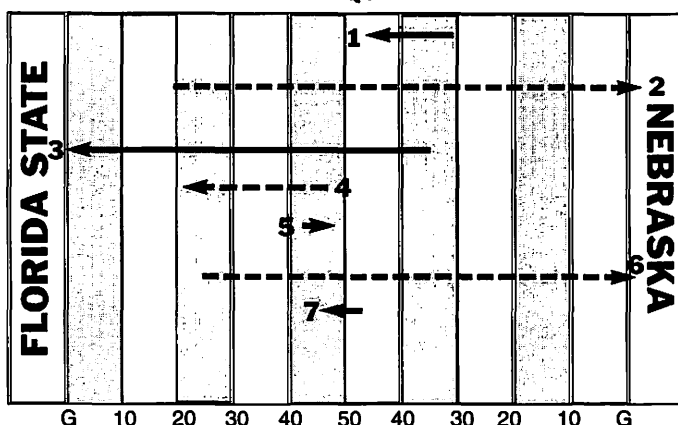
THIRD QUARTER



- 1) After a 26-yard kickoff return, FSU went to the shotgun and Ward completed 3-of-5 to move 63 yards to the NU 4. On first-and-goal from the 4, fullback William Floyd powered forward 3 yards. Then it happened. Floyd, on second-and-goal, attempted to jump in from 4 yards out but lost the ball. The line judge ruled touchdown, saying Floyd had control as he broke the plane of the goal. Replays showed he didn't. FSU 13, NU 7.
- 2) A 16-yard pass play to Trumane Bell was the only bright spot as NU is forced to punt from its 39.
- 3) Another sack by Alberts forced FSU to return the punt favor.
- 4) Passes to Bell and Corey Dixon help, but NU again punts.
- 5) Starting at its 12, FSU sustains a drive on the strength of a 34-yard pickup by Floyd, a 10-yard pass to Matt Frier and a 15-yard personal foul. Following the foul, Dwayne Harris dropped Ward for a 7-yard loss. But Ward connected with Frier for 13 to set up a 39-yard field goal by Bentley. FSU took 2:21 to march 66 yards. FSU 15, NU 7.
- 6) NU started at its 27 after a 21-yard return by Dixon. The Huskers marched on the strength of Frazier and a 26-yard pass to Dixon.

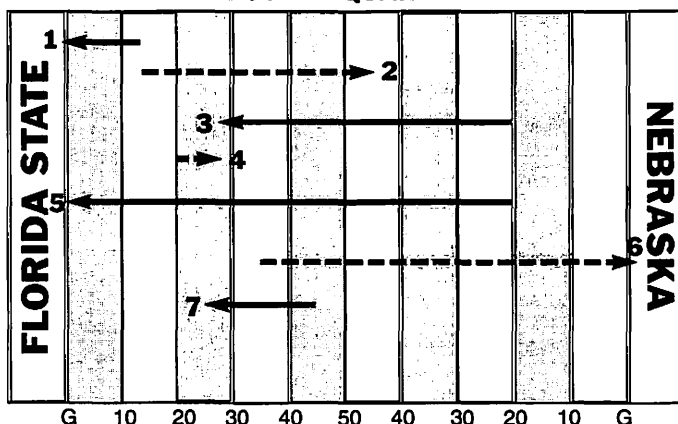
FLORIDA STATE

SECOND QUARTER



- 1) NU's drive stalled three plays after a 14-yard pass to Abdul Muhammad. Bennett punted a 56 yarder from his 44.
- 2) The Seminoles mixed up pass and run successfully, but appeared to be in trouble at their 34 after a third-and-6 pass fell incomplete. John Reece was whistled for pass interference and Bentley capitalized five plays later by connecting on a 34-yard field goal.
- 3) A Jones run (6 yards), face mask call, and a 25-yard pass to Clester Johnson from NU's 40 led to one of the only times luck was on the Huskers' side in the game. On second-and-9 from the FSU 34, Frazier's pass to Johnson was tipped and Reggie Baul snagged the ball and sped 34 yards for the score. Bennett's PAT capped the six play, 64-yard drive. Nebraska led 7-3.
- 4) Drive died because of a sack and illegal procedure. FSU punted.
- 5) Holding penalty wiped out NU drive. Huskers lost 8 yards.
- 6) Bentley nailed 25-yard field goal to pull FSU within one, 7-6.
- 7) Frazier was picked off on second play by Clifton Abraham. End of half.

FOURTH QUARTER



- 1) Freshman Lawrence Phillips cruised into the end zone from 12 yards out on a counter play. Bennett's PAT put Nebraska within two (13-15).
- 2) Ward mixed up the pass plays as FSU moved 41 yards before failing to make 4 yards on three tries from NU's 45. Seminoles punt.
- 3) Nebraska looked ready to score as it moved from its 20 to the FSU 29 in 10 plays. But on third-and-15, Frazier was picked off.
- 4) A tremendous Black Shirt stand forced FSU to four and out.
- 5) Phillips opened the Huskers' third drive with a 17-yard run. Frazier hit Johnson on an 11-yard pickup before running for 32 himself. A face-mask call, a Phillips run (1 yard) and a Phillips loss (crushed 4 yards deep in the backfield) set up Bennett for a 27-yard field goal. After two FSU timeouts, Bennett nailed it. NU 16, FSU 15.
- 6) With only 1:16 remaining, FSU marched 60 yards from its 35. An NU personal foul (15 yards) and pass interference call (15) kept drive alive. Bentley hit his fourth field goal from 22 yards out. FSU 18, NU 16.
- 7) Beginning at the NU 43 with only 21 seconds left, Frazier hit Bell over the middle for 29 yards. With one second left, Bennett's 45-yard field goal sailed wide left. FSU 18, NU 16.



JONES DECLARES FOR NFL

Shortly after returning from the Orange Bowl, junior I-back Calvin Jones decided to forego his final year of eligibility and opt for the NFL. Scouts believe Jones could go in the first three rounds of the 1994 draft.

"I have filed the required papers with the National Football League declaring my eligibility for the 1994 NFL draft," said Jones who suffered through an injury-plagued 1993 year. "It is with deeply mixed feelings that I make this announcement, but I believe this is the best decision for me and my family."

SNORKELING AT DORAL

Several players and other Orange Bowl party members tried to go snorkeling while in Miami. However, the weather was not cooperative.

David Seizys and other players went south to the Keys on their day off only to be told that it was too choppy to go out.

Husker legend John Melton may have been the only Nebraska person to come close to an underwater experience.

Melton along with several administrators and regents went golfing at Doral's famous Blue Monster one afternoon. The Monster was having its way with the Nebraskans. Melton was driving a cart and evidently lost track of where he was momentarily. He had to dive from his cart to avoid joining it in a plunge into a pond.

The cart sank below the water, clubs and all, leaving only the roof visible through sparking ripples.

Whatever the reason for the accident, Doral employees were not amused and it took them some time before they were able to extricate the cart and its cargo from the watery depths.

When asked for his name and phone number, Melton quickly responded by giving them regent John Payne's name and address.

LITTLE RED FAN

Coach Tom Osborne's 14-month-old grandson, Will, went to Miami



Kevin Ramaekers was all wet when Coach Tom Osborne caught up with him with a Gatorade jug before Nebraska left Lincoln.

for his first bowl trip. Will had been sick in Lincoln prior to leaving for Florida, but team doctor Lonnie Albers, who doubles as Will's doctor, figured he could handle the tike if any problems arose.

Will regained his health upon arriving in Miami and seemed to be back to his old self. Two days later, Will became ill again with a fever despite being on antibiotics.

Concerned, Albers accompanied Will to a local emergency room. He ordered blood tests and X-rays. Big city emergency rooms are not the most expedient of health care experiences at any time.

Several hours later, Will had been run through the mill. Poked, prodded and examined from head to toe by three doctors, Will fell asleep.

Hours later Will's temperature went back to normal. Albers attributed the flare-up to Husker Fever.

YOU'RE ALL WET, BUDDY

Kevin Ramaekers took two more showers than his teammates did in December.

Coach Osborne provided the first by dousing Ramaekers with a Gatorade bucket after the last practice in Lincoln. Osborne had threatened to get even with Ramaekers for his dousing of the coach following the Oklahoma State game.

Ramaekers' second shower was more of a surprise.

The Nebraska team and coaches were given a private party at Miami's Seaquarium. The Killer Whale show featured a mock competition between the killer white and two dolphins. The dolphins were declared winners and the announcer pointed to Ramaekers as the erroneous judge.

Ramaekers was asked to ap-

proach the pool to confront the whale who had been so unfairly appraised. The whale promptly rose and spit a fountain of spray through her teeth at Ramaekers.

SEVEN BLIND MICE

What do John Soffey, Carl Crawley, Donald Guman, Nick Trainer, George Cullen, Roger Parramore and James Anderson have in common?

They are all Big East officials. They were all working the Orange Bowl. And they are perceived nationwide as scoundrels.

Does anyone remember the good 'ol boys that helped Danny Ford's Clemson team win the 1982 game by flagging every Nebraska offensive lineman for holding 10 times, or what about Joe Paterno's relatives who were given stripped shirts and yellow hankies in 1983.

Prior to the Big East's formation a couple of years ago, the refs that worked the Orange Bowl were members of the Eastern Independence Officials Association — which meant they worked Florida State games.

At least one of the Orange Bowl refs lives in Florida — Jacksonville to be exact. But that doesn't automatically make the refs biased, but raised the question, "Isn't there a better way to select officials?" How about going to the Pac 10?

Fans in Nebraska consider the game to have been theirs. Osborne's secretary was besieged at the football offices the following Monday by callers from around the country voicing their opinions.

One Florida State fan called from Tallahassee and apologized. He claimed he had purchased a neon sign to put on the side of his vehicle that says, "Nebraska is No. 1." ■



Photo by Robert Berry

11-1

While the Huskers came up a field goal short of a national title in the 1994 Orange Bowl, Tom Osborne unquestionably did one of his best coaching jobs with a group that fought through injuries, system changes and doubters to put together the school's best record in a decade

"We Refuse to Lose."

Those words represented Nebraska's 1993 football season, one of the most successful in school history.

The slogan, which was printed on T-shirts the Cornhuskers wore under their jerseys from the beginning of the season to the end, was the creation of the team's unity council, and served as a rallying cry.

Whenever their backs were to the wall, and there were plenty of times, the Cornhuskers drew strength from those well-chosen words.

Seven times Nebraska was tied or ahead by less than a touchdown in the fourth quarter, and only once did it lose — to Florida State in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night.

In four of the Cornhuskers' 11 victories, they trailed at some point.

Going into the season, Coach Tom Osborne said he expected his 21st team to be successful. But, he said, certain key players would have to stay healthy. The most prominent of those players were I-back Calvin Jones, quarterback Tommie Frazier and outside linebacker Trev Alberts.

All three were injured before the regular season ended.

Jones, who had a preseason shot at the Heisman Trophy, suffered a knee injury, with Nebraska ahead 49-7, in the third quarter of the opener against North Texas and missed the next two games. He played only one down against Colorado State, "participated" is the way Osborne

described it, so that he could qualify in Big Eight statistics.

Even so, Jones moved up to second on Nebraska's career rushing list, with 3,153 yards, after a second consecutive 1,000-yard season.

Mike Rozier is No. 1 on the all-time list, with 4,780 rushing yards.

Frazier suffered a severely sprained ankle on the first play from scrimmage in the opener and played through pain all season long.

Tony Veland, who had been expected to challenge Frazier for playing time, suffered a season-ending knee injury in the second game. Highly regarded Ben Rutz, a redshirt freshman quarterback, didn't recover from spring knee surgery until the season was well underway.

Alberts made it to the final game of the regular season against Oklahoma before being sidelined by a dislocated elbow, suffered early in the first quarter — the ninth play.

Alberts turned in a defensive performance equal to the best in Cornhusker history, earning the Butkus Award as the nation's best collegiate linebacker. He was a consensus All-American and *The Football News* Defensive Player of the Year.

"He's certainly played at a level commensurate with any of the very best players we have had here," Coach Tom

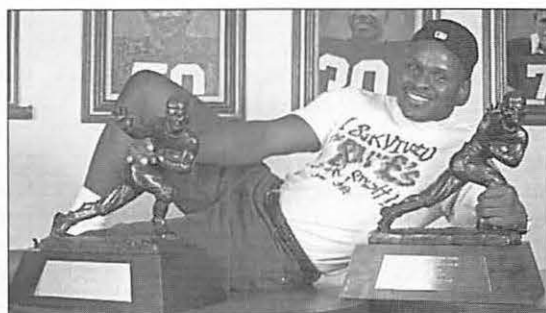



Photo by Shon Knapp

Calvin Jones went from Heisman hopeful to spectator after suffering a knee injury in the season opener against North Texas.



Photo by Robert Berry

A full-length portrait of a young man, Trev Alberts, standing against a dark background. He is wearing a black tuxedo jacket over a white dress shirt and a black bow tie. He is smiling slightly at the camera. In his left hand, he holds a large, dark-colored trophy that features a bronze statue of a football player in a three-point stance. His right hand is resting on the base of the trophy. He has short, light brown hair and is looking directly at the camera.

Outside linebacker Trev Alberts became one of Nebraska's most decorated defensive players winning the Dick Butkus Award and NCAA Top Six Award in 1993.

Photo by Britt Runion Photography

Osborne said of Alberts, who tied the Nebraska record for quarterback sacks in a season (15).

Alberts set the Cornhusker record for career sacks, with 29.5 for 196 yards in losses.

The undefeated regular-season record was Nebraska's 11th, and its first since 1983, when the Cornhuskers went 12-0 before losing against Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl game.

Nebraska's other undefeated regular seasons, with overall records in parentheses: 1890 (2-0), 1902 (9-0), 1903 (10-0), 1913 (8-0), 1914 (7-0-1), 1915 (8-0), 1965 (10-1), 1970 (11-0-1) and 1971 (13-0-0).

The Cornhuskers won a third consecutive Big Eight Conference championship and qualified for an NCAA record-tying 25th straight bowl game.

Osborne joined 11 others with 200 coaching victories in 1993. No. 200 came at Oklahoma State, 27-13, before a

national television audience on the ESPN cable network.

Osborne, the winningest active coach by percentage in Division I-A of the NCAA, is one of only three active coaches with 200 or more victories. The others are Joe Paterno of Penn State and Bobby Bowden of Florida State.

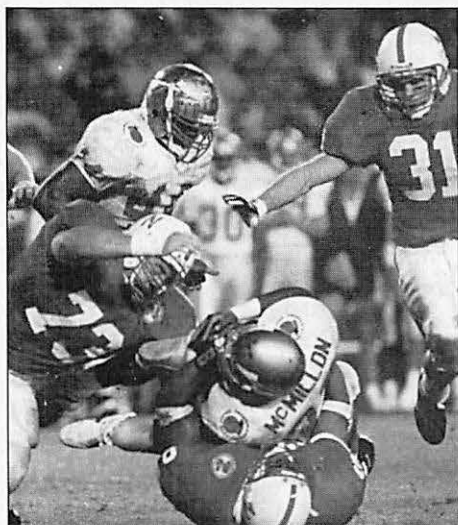
Nebraska ranked third in the nation in rushing offense, averaging 287.9 yards per game. It was the first time in 16 years that the Cornhuskers didn't average more than 300 rushing yards per game. Osborne's offense was more balanced between run and pass.

However it was accomplished, the Cornhuskers were difficult to stop once they got inside their opponents' 20-yard line — the "red zone."

Nebraska scored in 45-of-50 such situations during the regular season, getting touchdowns 42 times.

Defense was a key to the Cornhuskers' success in

▶▶ THE YEAR IN REWIND



Underdogs by 10 1/2 points, the Huskers came up short against Florida State, 27-14, in the 1993 Orange Bowl.

“I couldn't care less about what the media think. Even in Nebraska, people were saying we'd get beat by 50 points. I can't wait until next season, when this program blows some teams away, so I can laugh at them.”

— Kevin Ramaekers, defensive tackle, following the 1993 Orange Bowl loss.



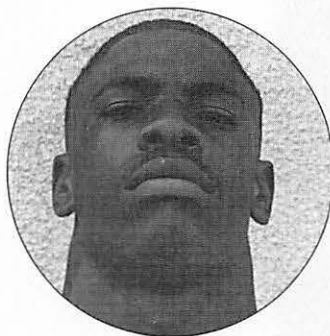
Forward Eric Piatkowski scored 17 points against Southern Utah Jan. 5, 1993 to enter Nebraska's 1,000 points club.



Basketball spirits were high after freshman Erick Strickland helped push the Huskers past No. 3 Kansas in Lincoln on national television in February.

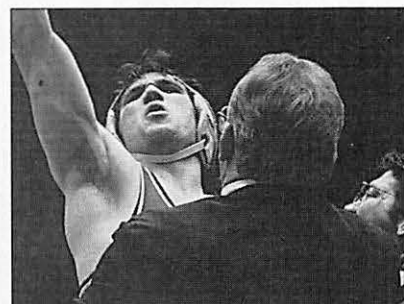
“We feel like a bullet in the barrel of a gun.”

— Marc Sagmoen, centerfielder, was fired up for the 1993 baseball season to get underway in early March.



The Huskers land one of their better recruiting classes in February with the likes of Los Angeles Player of the Year Lawrence Phillips.

When the dust cleared during the NCAA wrestling tourney in March, Nebraska had tied a school record after six wrestlers, including 126-pounder Tony Purler, claimed All-America status.



“I just told Matt, ‘There's nothing I can say to make you feel better, but I love you’.”

— Tim Neumann, wrestling coach, about Matt Lindland losing in the first round after being picked to win the 158-pound title.

1993. In the spring, Osborne and his defensive coaches set about switching from a "50" base to a 4-3 alignment. The change was an attempt to deal with the pass-oriented offenses that have caused Nebraska problems in bowl games.

The change worked. The Cornhuskers led the Big Eight in every defensive category and ranked among the nation's best defensively.

The 4-3 alignment, and a more aggressive, attacking style, suited Alberts' skills perfectly and contributed to his remarkable season.

Defensively, as well as offensively, Nebraska had one of its fastest teams, ever. Yet few outside the team, mainly media types, thought the Cornhuskers would be fast enough to keep up with Florida State on New Year's night.

Nebraska, ranked ninth in the nation before its opener

against North Texas, finished the regular season No. 1 in the bowl coalition poll.

Even so, the Cornhuskers were 17 1/2-point underdogs against Florida State, which ranked second in the coalition poll.

"When you hear 17 points, first you laugh at it. 'You've got to be kidding me,'" Nebraska defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers said during a pre-Orange Bowl news conference.

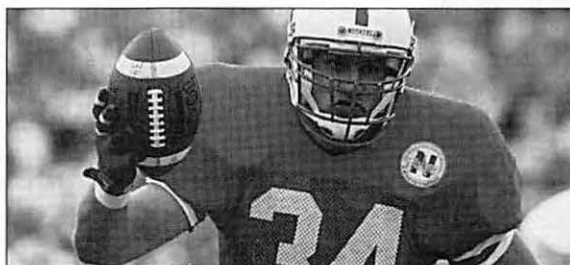
"Then, you use it as a motivating tool," he said.

The Cornhuskers played FSU to a standoff and regained the respect they had lost in recent seasons.

Nebraska was ranked third in both the Associated Press and CNN/USA Today final polls, its best ranking since the 1984 season, and its second-best final ranking since the polls were established. The Cornhuskers also were third in 1984 and 1982. ■

"I'd liken this to a football team starting out 2-4 and then finishing 9-4 with a bowl win."

— John Sanders, baseball coach, on the team's rebound from an early 12-15 record to a final 35-23 record.



After living in virtual obscurity outside of the Big Eight during his career, outside linebacker Trev Alberts saw his name pop up on many preseason All-America lists in August.



Karen Jennings crushed many school records, including career scoring with 2,405, as she finished her career at Nebraska earning All-America status

"We are looking at the point of no return. We are getting painted into a corner, and it's frustrating."

— Tom Osborne, football coach, after hearing the announced recommendations from the NCAA President's Commission that would eliminate the recruiting coordinator's position.

Nebraska received national exposure after a portion of the southeast corner of Memorial Stadium came crashing down May 14.



"Don't count this team out. In a couple of years, maybe next year, they could contend in the NCAA. I wouldn't be surprised if they win the Big Eight in 1994."

— Danny Nee, basketball coach, after the Huskers first-round NCAA loss to New Mexico State in March.



A frustrated Charlie McBride said following the spring game in April that he felt as insecure about the Huskers' defense as he had ever in his 17 years on the staff.

"Our philosophy is to call him what he is, a legitimate Heisman candidate."

— Chris Anderson, NU sports information director, on hyping junior I-back Calvin Jones for college football's most prestigious individual honor. Jones entered the season listed as the third best back behind San Diego State's Marshall Faulk and Michigan's Tyrone Wheatley.

1993

HUSKER FOOTBALL

GAME 1

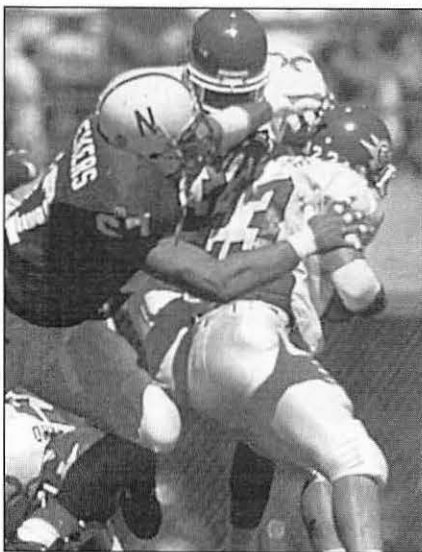
September 4, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	28	14	21	13	76
North Texas	0	7	7	0	14

Team Statistics

NU		NTS
360	Net Yards Rushing	39
215	Net Yards Passing	255
32:32	Time of Possession	27:28



Off And Running

Nebraska 76, North Texas 14

LINCOLN, Neb. — The No. 9 Cornhuskers opened their 104th season with a 76-14 victory over North Texas, an NCAA Division I-AA team.

The Huskers jumped out to a 28-0 first-quarter lead and grabbed a 42-7 halftime lead. Nine different Huskers scored, including rover Toby Wright on a 33-yard interception return. Unfortunately, the Huskers lost three starters to injury including quarterback Tommie Frazier on the first play of the game.

"I was trying to break a tackle," the sophomore said. "And my foot got stuck in the artificial turf."

Heisman Trophy candidate Calvin Jones strained his knee and would miss the next two games after leading all rushers with 16 carries for 124 yards and two scores.

Every Husker who suited up got to take a shot at cracking the box score in the season-opening yawner against North Texas.

Outside linebacker Donta Jones left the game with a sprained ankle.

In Frazier's place, sophomore Brook Berringer was perfect (7-7) passing with 124 yards, including a 33-yard touchdown to Corey Dixon to open the scoring. Berringer also rushed for two touchdowns.

Nebraska used all 116 Cornhuskers who suited up.

"A lot of us have been waiting for the opportunity (to play)," said Damon Benning, a redshirt freshman who replaced Jones at I-back. Benning had the longest run of the afternoon, a 51-yarder immediately after Jones was injured.

The Huskers totaled 575 yards to North Texas' 294 and outrushed the Eagles 360-39.

Defensively, 40 Huskers were credited with at least one tackle, led by Ernie Beler and Darren Williams with five each.

The 76 points scored by NU was the most since the 1983 team defeated Minnesota, 84-13, in Minneapolis.

GAME 2

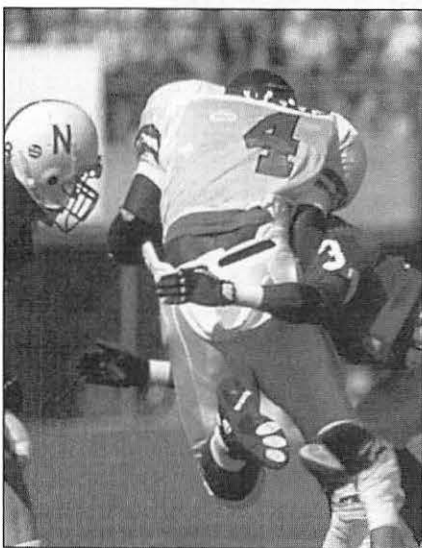
September 11, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	10	10	16	14	50
Texas Tech	7	7	7	6	27

Team Statistics

NU		TT
317	Net Yards Rushing	137
217	Net Yards Passing	186
37:06	Time of Possession	22:54



TECHnical Knockout

Nebraska 50, Texas Tech 27

LINCOLN, Neb. — For the second-straight week, NU passed for over 200 yards, this in a victory over the unranked, but eventual bowl-bound Red Raiders.

Nebraska led 10-0 early, but the Raiders put a test to the Huskers' new 4-3 defense as they crept back to a 20-14 halftime deficit. Tech, led by running back Byron "Bam" Morris took the lead on its second drive of the third quarter when it recovered a fumble on NU's 26-yard line and scored.

But NU scored on its next three possessions. That, coupled with two sacks by outside linebacker Trev Alberts and a fumble recovered by Tyrone Williams on a kickoff, killed any Raider hopes of an upset.

"The offense supported the

Nebraska may have had its season turn around when the Black Shirts took the Bam out of the vaunted Texas Tech offense.

defense, and the defense supported the offense," said defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "Every time we got in a hole, the offense got us out. And we got us out with some big plays."

Tommie Frazier, still noticeably hobbled by the sore ankle, completed 12-of-28 passes for a career-high 206 yards and rushed for a score in the second quarter.

I-back Damon Benning, playing in place of Calvin Jones, earned the start and responded with a game-high 127 yards on 19 carries. The freshman also scored twice.

Alberts earned Big Eight Defensive Player of the Week honors as he led all tacklers with 11 stops and single handedly sacked quarterback Robert Hall four times for 21 yards in losses.

"He's (Alberts) a one-man wrecking crew," said defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers. "Every time I got off a pile, he was the guy on the bottom."

Photo by Robert Berry

Photo by Robert Berry

GAME 3

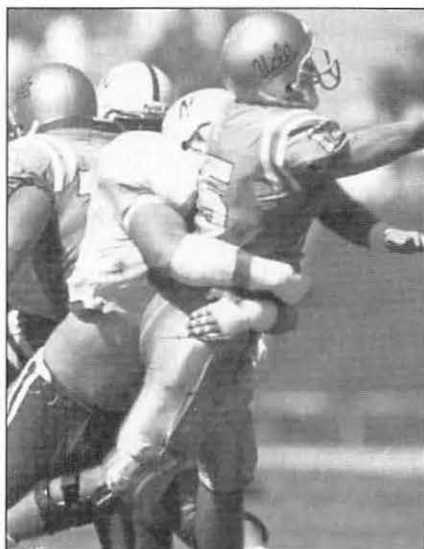
September 18, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	7	7	0	14
UCLA	3	7	0	3	13

Team Statistics

NU		UCLA
192	Net Yards Rushing	208
134	Net Yards Passing	145
28:00	Time of Possession	32:00



Too Close!

Nebraska 14, UCLA 13

PASADENA, Calif. — The Huskers faced tough competition in their first road game of the year. Approximately 12,000 Nebraska fans cheered the Huskers to a 14-13 victory in the Rose Bowl. The win marked NU's second come from behind victory in as many weeks.

UCLA scored first on a 39-yard field goal and followed with a 6-yard rushing touchdown by freshman Skip Hicks. But then No. 8 Nebraska came roaring back on the strength of freshman Lawrence Phillips.

Phillips, off the bench replacing Damon Benning, powered in from 5 yards out to close the halftime gap to 10-7.

The Black Shirts forced four UCLA punts in the second half and held the Bruins to a 27-yard field

Trev Alberts was named *Sports Illustrated's* Defensive Player of the Week after sacking UCLA's Wayne Cook twice and recording 12 tackles.

goal in the fourth quarter.

Nebraska's offense overcame four turnovers on the day (three in UCLA territory) and put together an 80-yard drive, capped by an 11-yard touchdown strike from Tommie Frazier to tight end Gerald Armstrong. The score put NU up 14-10 with 6:56 remaining in the third.

Frazier rushed for 33 yards and completed a career-best 13-of-19 passes for 145 yards.

"He (Frazier) was like one of those itches you get in the middle of your back," said UCLA safety Marvin Goodwin.

Led by Trev Alberts, the Black Shirts caused havoc in the Bruin backfield sacking quarterback Wayne Cook six times. Although NU finished the game minus four on turnovers, the defense didn't allow the Bruins to convert any into points.

Nebraska was one of only two teams on the year to hold All America receiver J.J. Stokes scoreless as he caught six passes for 65 yards.

GAME 4

September 25, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	14	14	6	14	48
Colorado St.	3	3	0	7	13

Team Statistics

NU		CSU
254	Net Yards Rushing	124
106	Net Yards Passing	144
32:30	Time of Possession	27:30



Ramming Ahead To 4-0

Nebraska 48, Colorado State 13

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska turned on the offensive faucet and scored more than 45 points for the third time in four games defeating Colorado State, 48-13.

It was the Husker defense which put the first six points on the board as rover Toby Wright, who had already returned an interception for a score earlier in the year, intercepted an Anthony Hill pass on CSU's second play from scrimmage and ran it in for a 34-yard touchdown.

"As a team, we try to be very close and we felt we had a lot to prove after last week," Wright said.

After the Rams kicked a field goal on their next drive, Nebraska answered with an 11-play, 78-yard drive on which Lawrence Phillips accounted for 57 yards on seven carries including a 7-yard run to put

Dwayne Harris (86) helped put a hurt on the Rams' running game. Colorado State managed only 124 yards on the ground.

NU up 14-3.

NU took a 28-6 lead into intermission as Tommie Frazier scored on a 16-yard run and completed a 1-yard pass to Gerald Armstrong. Frazier finished the day passing for 79 yards and completing 7-of-13.

Nebraska rushed for 254 yards with 10 different ballcarriers and had eight receivers catch passes.

With Calvin Jones gone, the Huskers got the chance to rotate people at I-back.

Trev Alberts led the Black Shirts with 10 tackles, including one sack and three other tackles for losses. Alberts had five of NU's season-high 24 quarterback hurries, while Hill was sacked six times for 44 yards in losses.

The Huskers did not turn over the ball for the first time all season, while CSU gave up two interceptions.

The victory gave the Huskers their first undefeated non-conference season since 1990.

1993

HUSKER FOOTBALL

GAME 5

October 7, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	6	7	14	27
Oklahoma St.	6	7	0	0	13

Team Statistics

NU		OSU
250	Net Yards Rushing	107
109	Net Yards Passing	115
25:41	Time of Possession	34:19

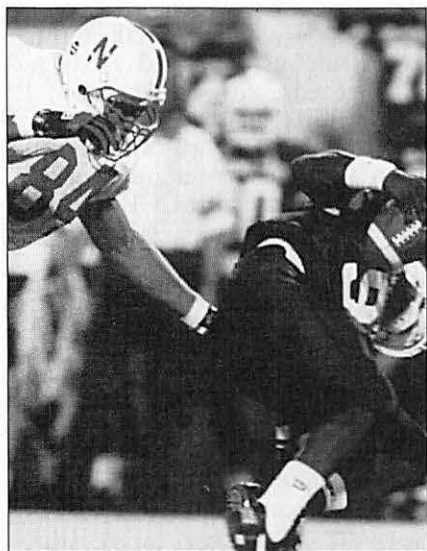


Photo by Greg Phillips

Block Party

Nebraska 27, Oklahoma State 13

STILLWATER, Okla. — It was a long time coming, but head coach Tom Osborne earned his 200th career win as Nebraska once again came from behind to win in the Big Eight season opener.

A Nebraska fumble on its own 24-yard line and two field goals gave the Cowboys a 6-0 lead at the end of one quarter.

Nebraska answered with a 28-yard field goal by Byron Bennett early in the second, but OSU scored on an 80-yard touchdown drive to lead 13-3. Bennett kicked a 26-yarder as time expired in the first half to cut the lead to 13-6.

But it was a different story in the second stanza as the Husker defense held OSU on each of its last nine possessions, forcing eight punts and failed fake punt. The Cowboys were

When the Husker defense found itself in the second half, OSU quarterback Tone Jones (9) found himself dodging one bullet after another.

held to only three first downs, 51 net yards and never got past the Nebraska 42.

Meanwhile Tommie Frazier led a seven-play, 56-yard drive and scored on a four-yard run with 5:24 remaining in the third quarter to tie the game at 13.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, Trev Alberts sacked OSU quarterback Tone Jones for a 9-yard loss back to the OSU 2 on third down. Then cornerback Barron Miles blocked a Scott Tyner punt and took it off the Cowboy's foot in one motion for the Huskers' go-ahead touchdown.

"He's (Miles) one of those few guys, and there aren't very many, who will look right at the football (on an attempted block) and put their face on it," Osborne said.

Calvin Jones, back for his first real action since the season opener, added the final blow with a 44-yard touchdown with 3:38 left. He led all NU rushers with 136 yards.

GAME 6

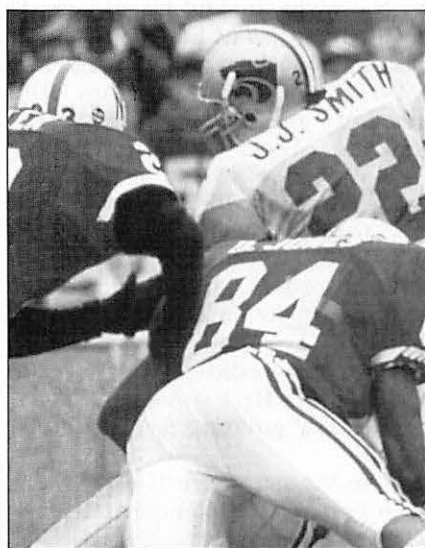
October 16, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	14	17	0	14	45
Kansas St.	7	7	7	7	28

Team Statistics

NU		KSU
391	Net Yards Rushing	76
154	Net Yards Passing	489
31:28	Time of Possession	28:32



Cat Scratched

Nebraska 45, Kansas State 28

LINCOLN, Neb. — It was a wild game from start to finish as NU's 192nd-consecutive sellout crowd saw over 1,000 yards of total offense rolled out. The Huskers were out-yarded, 565 to 545, and gave up a Big Eight record 489 yards passing to KSU quarterback Chad May.

"It seems like every time we play these guys, their quarterback plays out of his head," Tom Osborne said. "Or maybe he's that good all the time. But it's hard for me to believe this is the same team that only scored 10 points against Kansas."

But the Huskers were able to pick off two passes and recover a fumble. All three turnovers led to Nebraska scores.

KSU tied the score twice in the first half, but NU scored two more and Byron Bennett added a career-long 48-yard field goal to give the Huskers a 31-14 halftime lead.

Nebraska survived K-State's air assault by converting turnovers.

The Wildcats were the only team to score in the third quarter and added another with 7:44 remaining in the fourth to close the gap to three points, 31-28. But once again Nebraska answered, scoring twice in the last six minutes for the victory.

I-back Calvin Jones posted his second consecutive 100-yard rushing day with 138 on 29 carries and two scores while Tommie Frazier rushed for a career- and game-high 158 yards. He scored once on the ground and completed 9-of 19 passes for 154 yards and a score. Wingback Abdul Muhammad was Frazier's favorite target as he caught a career-high six passes for 91 yards.

Trev Alberts continued his streak of sacks in every game and broke the career record for sacks with one for a 10-yard loss which gave him 24.5 in his four-year career.

The victory extended the Huskers' NCAA record for consecutive winning seasons to an unprecedented 32.

Photo by Robert Berry

GAME 7 October 23, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	21	14	14	49
Missouri	0	7	0	0	7

Team Statistics

NU		MU
340	Net Yards Rushing	68
199	Net Yards Passing	104
35:07	Time of Possession	24:53



Photo by Robert Berry

All Eyes On The Buffs

Nebraska 49, Missouri 7

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska put together its most complete game of the season and improved its record to 7-0 as the Huskers defeated Missouri, 49-7.

After a scoreless first quarter, Nebraska put 21 points on the board, including two touchdowns by I-back Calvin Jones. The junior scored on a 4-yard run and a career-long 55-yard reception from Tommie Frazier.

Jones recorded his third consecutive 100-yard rushing day on the season with 129 yards and two touchdowns. Frazier chipped in 81 on the ground and completed 8-of-13 passes for 143 yards and two scores.

Nebraska rolled up its fourth 500-plus day tallying 539 yards, including 340 rushing.

Turnovers were a problem for

In 1993, Nebraska showed many opponents, including Missouri, that it could score in a hurry.

Nebraska as it committed two, one of which Missouri converted into a score. Frazier threw his second interception of the year, the first in four games and first in 61 attempts. But for the second straight week, he accounted for over 200 yards of total offense with 224 yards.

Nine different Huskers carried the ball and NU utilized three quarterbacks and eight receivers.

Trev Alberts again led the team with 10 tackles, his fifth double-figure day and added two sacks to his career-record total.

While the offense methodically moved the ball, mixing up runs and passes, it was the defense which really stepped forward.

After taking flak from the KSU game, the defense was challenged by defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. The Black Shirts responded, holding the Tigers to under 200 yards of total offense.

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GAME 8

October 30, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	21	0	0	0	21
Colorado	3	7	0	7	17

Team Statistics

NU		CU
190	Net Yards Rushing	189
167	Net Yards Passing	115
32:39	Time of Possession	27:21

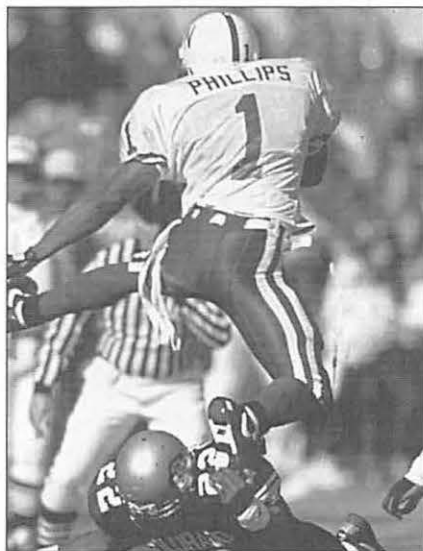


Photo by Tim Benko

Rocky Mountain High

Nebraska 21, Colorado 17

BOULDER, Colo. — The No. 6 Huskers jumped out to a 21-3 lead, then turned the game over to the Black Shirts who provided a gutsy defensive stand to guide Nebraska to a 21-17 win over then No. 18 Colorado.

It was Nebraska's second win on the road over a ranked team.

Calvin Jones scored the Huskers' first two touchdowns with runs of 4 and 10 yards, but suffered from the flu and leg cramps. He missed most of the last three quarters as he was held to under 100 yards (31) for the first time of the season.

Quarterback Tommie Frazier led the Huskers, completing 6-of-13 passes for 133 yards and rushing eight times for 56 yards before injuring his right shoulder on a 26-yard gain on the second play of the third quarter.

After the Huskers leapt to a 21-0 lead, only a short-lived comeback by Colorado stood in the way of win No. 8.

He was taken to the Husker locker room twice to be checked by doctors, but returned to the game two more times as the offense was stalled on its last eight possessions with an interception on the Colorado 9-yard line and two missed field goals.

"We knew Tommie has a lot of heart," said Corey Dixon. "That showed he wanted it a lot. He was hurting."

The Black Shirts came up with three critical turnovers in the second half, including pickoffs by Barron Miles, Ed Stewart and John Reece. Reece's interception ended Colorado's hopes on its last possession at the NU 40.

Toby Wright led the team in tackles with 13, but outside linebacker Trev Alberts earned *Sporting News* Defensive Player of the Week honors as he totaled 10 tackles, including two sacks and six quarterback hurries.

The NU defense forced CU quarterback Kordell Stewart to complete only 6-of-28 passes for 115 yards.

GAME 9

November 6, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	7	7	0	7	21
Kansas	7	0	7	6	20

Team Statistics

NU		KU
297	Net Yards Rushing	179
368	Net Yards Passing	297
29:41	Time of Possession	30:19



Photo by Rich Sugg

Whew!

Nebraska 21, Kansas 20

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Huskers won their ninth consecutive game after going down to the wire against the Jayhawks in the 100th meeting between the Big Eight rivals.

Kansas, electing to go for the win after scoring with only :52 remaining, had the conversion pass fall short of its intended receiver.

Nebraska missed early opportunities to put the Jayhawks away.

KU scored first, but NU answered with a 4-yard rushing touchdown by Calvin Jones and an 8-yard scoring-pass from Tommie Frazier to tight end Gerald Armstrong. NU was moving the ball decisively and looked to go into halftime with a 21-7 lead as Brook Berringer took the reins of the Husker attack while Frazier rested a sore shoulder.

Trumane Bell (80) helped stretch the Husker lead to 21-14 on this fourth-quarter touchdown in Lawrence, Kan.

But after marching 77 yards to the KU 6, Berringer threw an interception in the end zone. Kansas played NU's game of ball control, used up 10:08 in the third quarter and scored with 1:10 remaining to tie the game at 14. After an exchange of possessions, the Huskers marched the ball down the field and Jones broke loose for a 51-yard run. On the next play, Frazier hit tight end Trumane Bell who pushed his way into the end zone in double coverage.

"It was probably the biggest catch I've had in my career," Bell said. "But it's just a catch to me. I've done it many times in practice."

But KU answered with a 17-play, 80-yard drive that set up the two-point conversion.

Jones finished with 195 yards including 96 in the fourth quarter.

Trev Alberts' streak of 10 games with at least one sack came to an end. Linebacker Mike Anderson led the Black Shirts with 12 tackles.

1993

HUSKER FOOTBALL

GAME 10

November 13, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	21	0	14	14	49
Iowa State	7	3	0	7	17

Team Statistics

NU		ISU
438	Net Yards Rushing	261
68	Net Yards Passing	58
29:30	Time of Possession	31:30

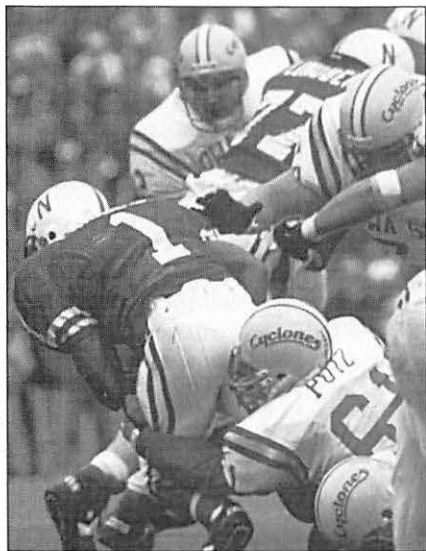


Photo by Robert Berry

Champs Again

Nebraska 49, Iowa State 17

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska clinched its third-consecutive Big Eight crown with a 49-17 win over Iowa State.

The Huskers gained ground in terms of national respect as they moved up to No. 2 in the CNN/USA Today poll and to No. 3 in the AP and Bowl Coalition polls.

Freshman Tyrone Williams recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff and again on ISU's first play from scrimmage. The offense converted both into scores to move to a 14-0 lead with 12 minutes remaining in the first quarter.

"We gave them a hell of a kick-start," Iowa State Coach Jim Walden said. "You don't give the third-best team in the nation turnovers back-to-back and let them score. I'm not sure any team in the country could do that to Nebraska." And survive.

The Huskers accepted the Orange Bowl bid after running the Cyclones into the ground.

Calvin Jones and Tommie Frazier combined for over 400 yards of total offense as both rushed for more than 100 yards. Frazier completed 4-of-10 passes for 68 yards and three scores.

Frazier connected with one of his favorite targets, Gerald Armstrong, for a 10-yard score that put NU up 21-0 with 8:23 remaining.

"I was hoping we'd hold them to 10 points," Charlie McBride said.

Jones moved up to No. 2 on the NU career rushing list and became just the third Husker and the 15th player in the Big Eight to compile 3,000 rushing yards with his 208 yard performance.

As a team, Nebraska rushed for over 400 yards for the first time in 1993 and took over as the nation's No. 1 rushing team.

Trev Alberts tied the school record for sacks in a season and broke the school career record for tackles for loss as he had 10 tackles, one sack and three for losses.

GAME 11

November 26, 1993

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	7	0	14	21
Oklahoma	7	0	0	0	7

Team Statistics

NU		OU
122	Net Yards Rushing	209
57	Net Yards Passing	85
27:37	Time of Possession	32:23

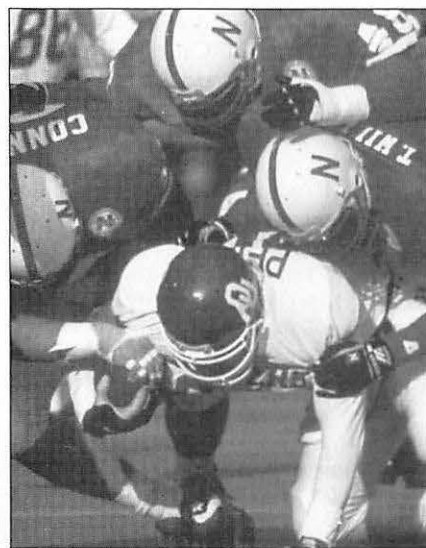


Photo by Robert Berry

Look Who's No. 1

Nebraska 21, Oklahoma 7

LINCOLN, Neb. — With a wind chill below zero, neither the nation's No. 1 team (depending on which poll you liked) nor the No. 15 Sooners could get anything going through the air. Both teams finished below 100 in passing yardage.

But the edge came in big plays. Nebraska just seemed to make them when they counted. The Huskers took advantage of four OU turnovers.

Oklahoma drew first blood as they marched 74 yards on the first possession. The drive cost the Huskers more than just seven points as NU's Dick Butkus winner Trev Alberts had his right elbow dislocated when Sooner tight end Rickey Brady jumped on top of the already downed linebacker.

The OU defense had Nebraska

The Black Shirts did a chill number on the Sooner offense causing a shutout for the final three quarters.

scrambling as the Huskers punted on their first three possessions before giving up an interception on its fourth drive.

Tommie Frazier led the Huskers back after taking the ball in on a 2-yard run to tie the score at seven. The 15-yard drive was set up by a Toby Wright interception, his third pickoff of the season.

The score remained deadlocked until the fourth quarter when the Huskers' nine-play drive culminated with an 11-yard scoring pass from Frazier to Abdul Muhammad with 13:20 remaining. On the ensuing kickoff, native Oklahoman Mike Minter caused a fumble which David Seizys recovered to give NU the ball on the OU 20.

Just 13 seconds later, I-back Calvin Jones, who finished with 82 rushing yards, scored on the first play from scrimmage to put NU up 21-7.

The win gave Nebraska its first perfect regular season since 1983.

PILING ON

**Butkus winner
Alberts was only one
of many Huskers to
reap post-season
awards in 1993**

Paced by All-American and Butkus Award winner Trev Alberts, Nebraska enjoyed tremendous success in the race for post-season individual honors, both on and off the field in 1993.

Alberts, on the strength of a season in which he recorded a team-high 96 tackles, earned Nebraska's first Butkus Award. The closest Nebraska had come to winning the award given annually to the nation's best college linebacker was in 1988 when Broderick Thomas finished second to Alabama's Derrick Thomas.

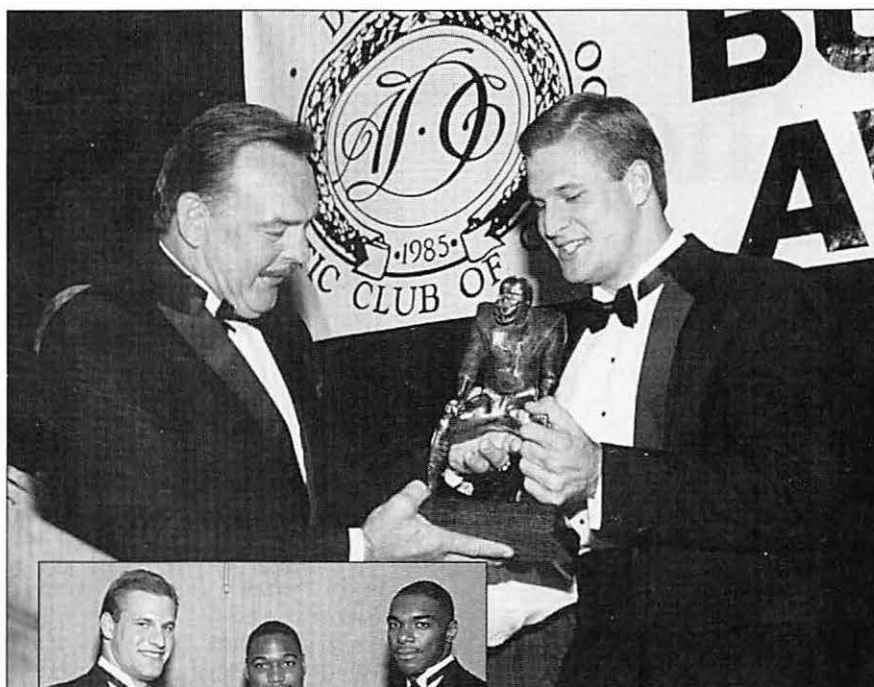
Though Alberts had piled up impressive numbers during the 1993 campaign, he told the Associated Press that he wasn't sure his statistics would be enough to beat out the two finalists from major media areas — Florida State's Derrick Brooks and UCLA's Jamir Miller.

"I thought it would be close," said the 6-foot-4, 240-pounder who is projected as an early first-round pick in the upcoming NFL draft. "I'd be interested in knowing what the voting numbers were. This award goes to the team. We've all been taking knocks, but we've gotten the job done all year.

"I'm proud to win this award and I've worked really hard. I hope to honor this award and play like Dick Butkus."

Alberts had more unassisted tackles (49), total tackles (96), sacks (15), tackles for losses (21) and fumbles caused (three) than either of the other two finalists.

He tied the school record for sacks in a season and finished just 51 yards short of Jim Skow's 1985 season record of 139 yards lost via sacks.



Alberts beat out Florida State's Derrick Brooks (center) and UCLA's Jamir Miller (right) to win the Butkus, which was presented by NFL hall of famer Dick Butkus.

In addition to the Butkus, Alberts earned All-America honors on first-teams (AP, *Football News*, *The Sporting News*, Football Writers Association of America, Kodak and Walter Camp), and was voted *Football News* and Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year.

Academically, Alberts was awarded a National Football Foundation Scholarship, a Toyota Leadership Award, a Hitachi/CFA Scholarship and his fourth Academic All-Big Eight award.

Other Huskers earning academic honors were GTE first-teamers offensive lineman Rob Zatechka (4.00 GPA in Biological Sciences), defensive lineman Terry Connealy (3.758 in Agri-Business) and second teamer offensive lineman Ken Mehlin (3.582 in Agri-Business).

Zatechka also joined Alberts on the Hitachi/CFA first team.

Calvin Jones saw his chances for a possible Heisman slip away when he missed three games after injuring his knee in the season opener against North Texas. But Jones rebounded and earned third-team *Football News* All-America status as well as being named as one of eight finalists for the Doak Walker award given to the nation's best running back.

While Tom Osborne was overlooked for national coach of the year honors, his peers in the Big Eight

were not so blind. Osborne won his seventh Coach of the Year honors in the poll voted on by Big Eight coaches.

The Big Eight coaches also named sophomore defensive back Tyrone Williams as the defensive newcomer of the year. The award, which he shared with Kansas State inside linebacker Percell Gaskins, is given to a transfer or a player who sat out a season due to Proposition 42.

Six Huskers were also named to the Coaches All-Big Eight first team. Offensive linemen Lance Lundberg, Ken Mehlin, Zach Wiegert and Jones earned offensive honors while Alberts and defensive back Barron Miles made the defensive list.

Tommie Frazier, who was one of 10 finalists for the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, made the second-team offensive squad. Frazier was the only finalist who was not a junior or senior.

Earning offensive honorable mention were wideouts Abdul Muhammad and Corey Dixon, tight end Gerald Armstrong and return specialist Dixon.

Defensive second-teamers included Connealy, inside linebacker Ed Stewart and rover Toby Wright. Linebacker Mike Anderson, defensive back John Reece and punter Byron Bennett earned honorable mention. ■

the BEST and



What were the best and worst of Nebraska's 1993 football season, which ended with an 11-1 record and a No. 3 national ranking? *Huskers Illustrated* offers a few nominations.

MOST DRAMATIC PLAY

The defense wasn't lined up properly when Kansas attempted a two-point conversion, trailing Nebraska 21-20 with only 52 seconds remaining, at Lawrence, Kan., on November 7.

"We had backs in the wrong position, and we had two guys blitzing from the wrong side," Cornhusker cornerback John Reece said.

But Kevin Ramaekers pressured Jayhawk quarterback Asheiki Preston, whose hurried pass fell short of its intended receiver, Ashaundai Smith, to preserve a Nebraska victory.

BEST RUN FROM SCRIMMAGE

This came down to a tie between Calvin Jones' 64-yarder against Iowa State and Lawrence Phillips' 46-yarder, for a touchdown, against Kansas State.

WORST PASS

Tommie Frazier's ill-advised attempt, as he was being tackled in the UCLA game. It was intercepted.

GUTSIEST PERFORMANCE

Two plays into the second half of the Colorado game, Tommie Frazier suffered a shoulder injury as he was tackled after a 26-yard run. He returned, but by the end of the third quarter, the injury had been aggravated to such a degree that Frazier asked to be replaced because of the

Tommie Frazier (below) earned a share of "Gutsiest Performance" and "Most Inspirational Performance" when he returned to the Colorado game twice after suffering a shoulder injury in the second half.

Photo by Tim Benko

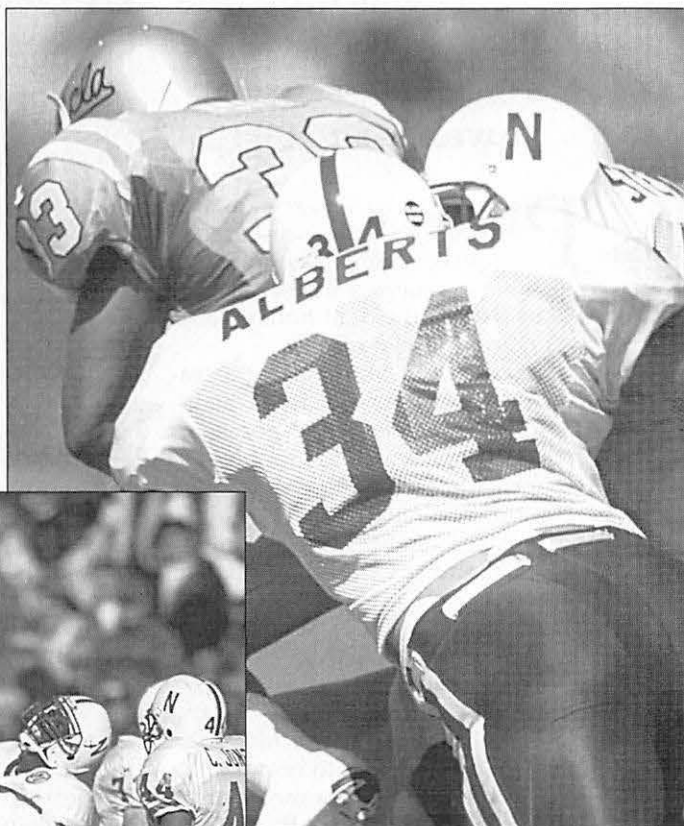
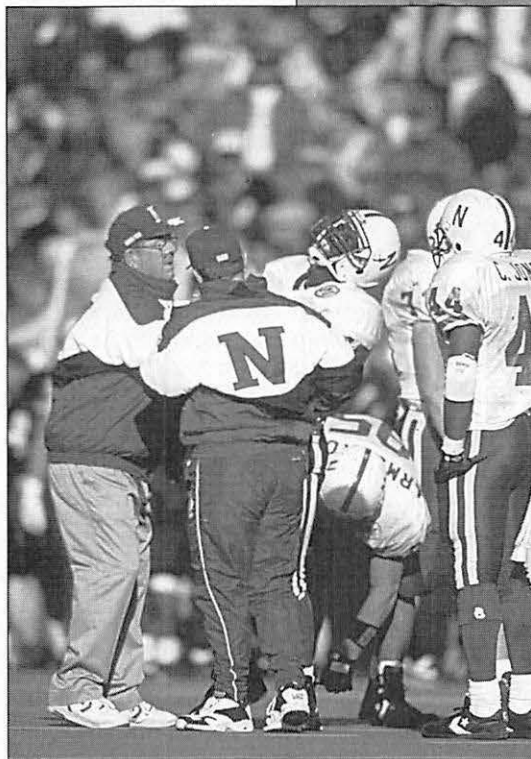


Photo by Norm Schindler

The Black Shirts' effort against UCLA (above) kept the Huskers from taking a loss early in the season.



BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE

What else? The entire team's effort in an 18-16 loss against Florida State in the Orange Bowl game. The Cornhuskers were heavy underdogs, yet came within a final second field goal attempt of winning.

BEST QUOTE BY AN OPPONENT

Kansas State quarterback Chad May, after the Wildcats received applause from Cornhusker fans following Nebraska's 45-28 victory at Memorial Stadium: "I'd rather have

pain.

After the Buffaloes scored to cut Nebraska's lead to 21-17 with 2:54 remaining in the game, Frazier again returned to the field.

"We knew Tommie had a lot of heart," teammate Corey Dixon said. "That showed he wanted it a lot."

WORST of 1993

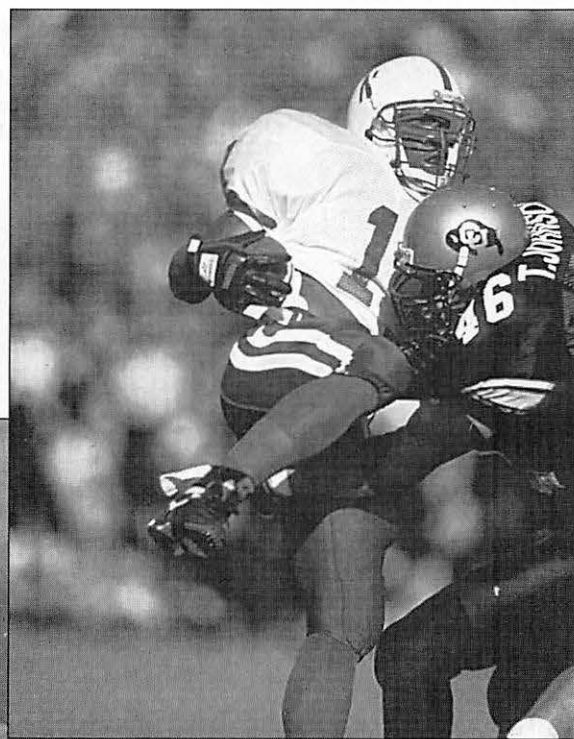
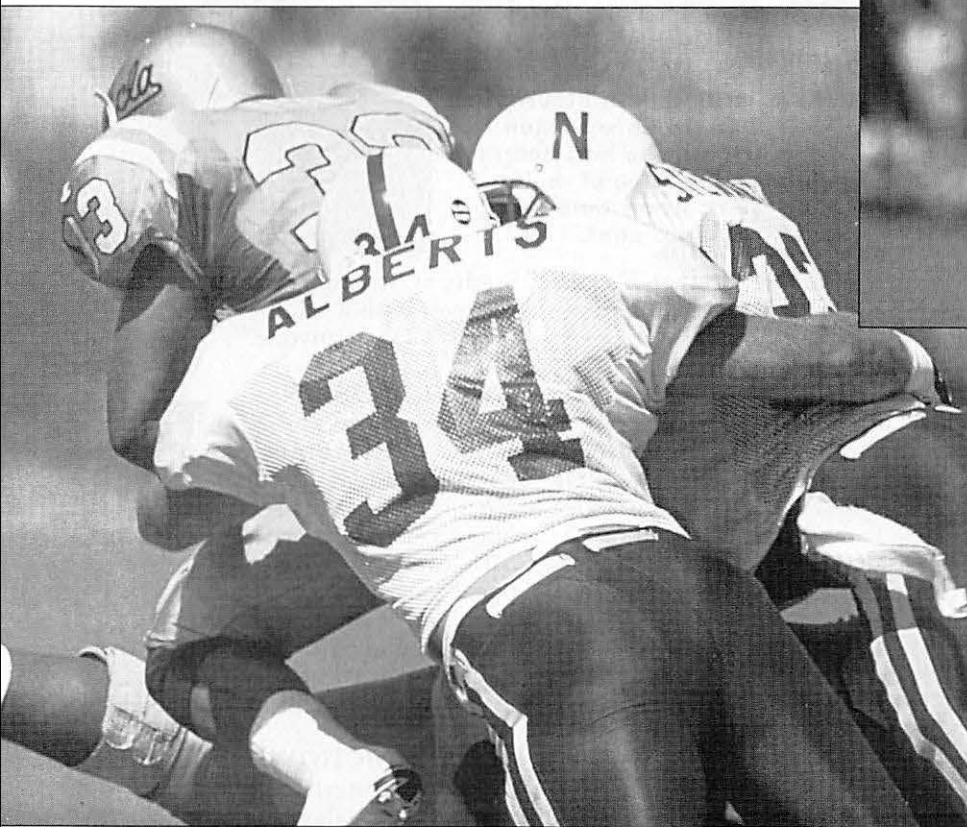


Photo by Tim Benko

I-back freshman Lawrence Phillips (1) got carried away rushing on plenty of opponents this season and earns "Best Offensive Sub" honors.

near the end of the first quarter of the Orange Bowl game, only to have the play nullified by a "penalty."

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PERFORMANCES

Tommie Frazier's dogged determination inspired the Cornhuskers in several games, including the previously mentioned Colorado victory.

Outside linebacker Trev Alberts played in the Orange Bowl, and was a dominating presence, despite the lingering effects of the dislocated elbow he suffered against Oklahoma.

POOREST TIMING

Considering the result, Tom Osborne wouldn't have sent Calvin Jones back into the North Texas game with the Cornhuskers leading 49-7 early in the third quarter. "In view of the few carries Calvin's had, we felt he needed some work," Osborne said.

Jones had seen limited contact during preseason training camp.

On his 16th carry against North Texas, a six-yard gain to the North Texas three-yard line, Jones suffered an injury to his left knee. He missed two games and made a one-play appearance in a third in order to meet the Big Eight's statistical requirement.

them cuss us out because we beat them."

BEST OFFENSIVE SUB

Freshman tailback Lawrence Phillips, whose best performances came when they were needed, against UCLA and against Florida State. Phillips rushed for a career-best 137 yards and a touchdown against UCLA, and came off the bench to run for 64 yards and a touchdown in the Orange Bowl.

BEST DEFENSIVE SUB

We couldn't decide, so like cowards, here's another tie.

Junior outside linebacker Dwayne Harris and sophomore nose tackle Christian Peter, based on their efforts against Oklahoma. Harris was chosen as Nebraska's Player of the Game by ABC television, after

making seven tackles, including three quarterback sacks.

Harris finished second on the team to Butkus Award winner Trev Alberts in sacks, with eight.

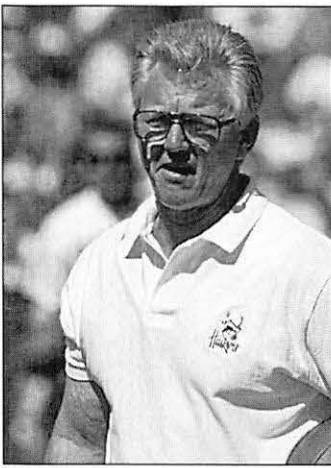
Peter had four tackles against the Sooners, three of them solo.

MOST EFFICIENT PLAYER

Senior tight end Gerald Armstrong caught 11 passes, five of which were for touchdowns. During his career, Armstrong turned 12-of-19 pass receptions into scores.

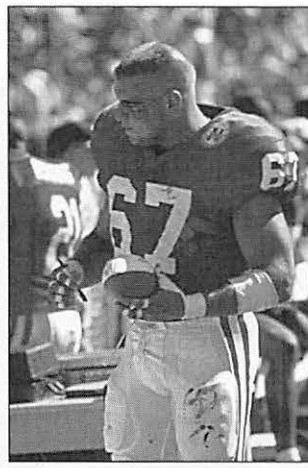
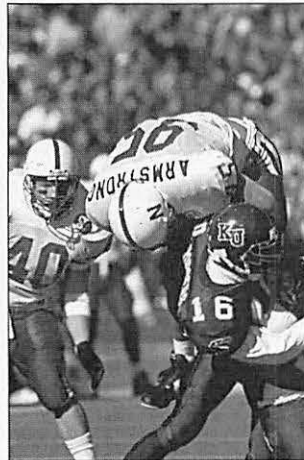
MOST EXCITING PUNT RETURN

Although he didn't get one into the end zone, Corey Dixon was always a threat to do so on punt returns. His 68-yarder set up the first touchdown in Nebraska's 21-17 victory at Colorado. He also returned a punt 71 yards for an apparent score



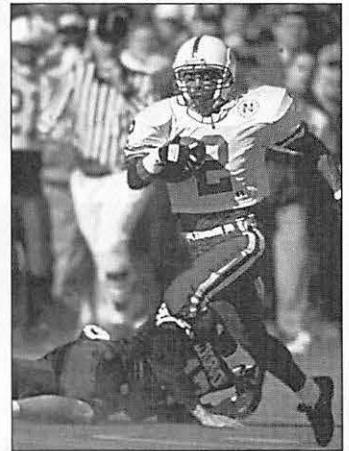
Charlie McBride (left) and his defensive coaches earn "Best Coaching Move" for their switch from the "50" to the 4-3 alignment.

Converting 45 percent (5-of-11) of the passes thrown his way for touchdowns earned tight end Gerald Armstrong (right) "Most Efficient Player" honors.



Winner of "Most Exciting Punt Returns" went to Corey Dixon (right) who had people on the edge of their seats every time he caught a punt.

By the end of the season Kevin Ramaekers (left) had not only become a crowd favorite, but a media favorite whenever a few "well-chosen" words were needed.



BEST QUARTER

The Cornhuskers scored 21 points in the first quarter against Colorado. Unfortunately, they didn't score after that. Fortunately, they didn't need to, winning 21-17.

WORST ACTING JOB

With 25 seconds remaining in the Cornhuskers' 14-13 victory at UCLA, Bruin linebacker Marvin Goodwin feigned injury, in order to stop the clock. However, once he was off the field, the play clock was reset. The transparent tomfoolery failed. No Oscar.

BEST COACHING MOVE

After last season, defensive coordinator Charlie McBride had the defense changed from its base alignment of a "50" to a 4-3. That adjustment, as much as any single change, contributed significantly to Nebraska's national title run.

BEST INTERCEPTION

With 1:21 remaining, John Reece intercepted a Kordell Stewart pass at the Nebraska 30-yard line to preserve a 21-17 victory. Reece's interception was the Cornhuskers' third of the game. Prior to the game, Stewart hadn't thrown an interception in 90 consecutive passes.

BEST OFFENSIVE PERFORMANCE

Statistically, Nebraska's best offensive effort was against North Texas. The Cornhuskers gained 575 yards and scored 76 points. But their best performance, in fact, came in the Orange Bowl game, against a

Florida State defense that ranked among the nation's best in all categories.

WORST OFFENSIVE PERFORMANCE

The Cornhuskers managed only 179 yards against Oklahoma, their lowest total, ever, in a victory under Coach Tom Osborne and the fifth-lowest total in Osborne's 21 seasons. Nebraska didn't average 3 yards per rush.

BEST DEFENSIVE PERFORMANCE

After a slow start, the Black Shirts buckled down against UCLA. If they hadn't, Nebraska might not have won the game because the offense committed four turnovers.

Considering the lack of offense against Oklahoma, the defense had to play well in order to win. And it did, limiting the Sooners to 94 total yards and only four first downs during the second half.

WORST DEFENSIVE PERFORMANCE

Kansas State gained 565 yards, including a Big Eight record 489 passing, against the Cornhuskers. Wildcat quarterback Chad May completed 30-of-52 passes, and tailback J.J. Smith rushed for 102 yards.

The defense did, however, intercept two May passes and recover one Kansas State fumble. All three turnovers were turned into scores.

WORST WEATHER

The Friday after Thanksgiving, when Oklahoma came to Memorial

Stadium, the temperature was 19 degrees, with a wind-chill factor of minus-7. Dome anyone?

WORST DECISION

After a third-and-22 play in the second quarter of the Kansas State game, Wildcat linebacker Kirby Hocutt took a swing at Nebraska offensive tackle Lance Lundberg. An official saw it; Kansas State was penalized, and Nebraska had a first down.

Said Lundberg: "I don't think he thought about where he was swinging because he hit me in the helmet."

BEST PREDICTION

Junior cornerback Barron Miles blocked an Oklahoma State punt and covered the ball in the end zone for Nebraska's go-ahead touchdown in a 27-13 victory at Stillwater, Okla.

Before the ball was snapped, "I told the guy blocking me I was going to get it," Miles said.

It was Nebraska's first blocked-punt score since 1989.

BEST QUOTES

By season's end, when reporters were looking for well-chosen words, they requested senior defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers.

MOST OBVIOUS QUOTE

After the Kansas State game, Cornhusker outside linebacker Trev Alberts said: "Kansas State is good, but Lord Almighty, 600 yards passing, that's ridiculous."

Actually, Wildcats' quarterback Chad May passed for only 489 yards. It just seemed like 600. ■

Let's say you're sitting in Memorial Stadium on a beautiful Saturday afternoon watching the Huskers mop up on Missouri or Iowa State. Anyone in the stands could tell you what number outside linebacker Trev Alberts or I-back Lawrence Phillips wear. They could probably also tell you who led the team in rushing last season or the score of this year's Texas Tech score.

But could the Nebraska faithful tell you which player is the most gullible or which of the athletes has the messiest room? Probably not.

So what we did was distribute a poll of questions to the players as they prepared for the Orange Bowl. We then calculated the results and came away with winners.

While some categories had run-away winners, such as "The loudest" and "Who eats the healthiest," others had ties and even second-and third-place finishers.

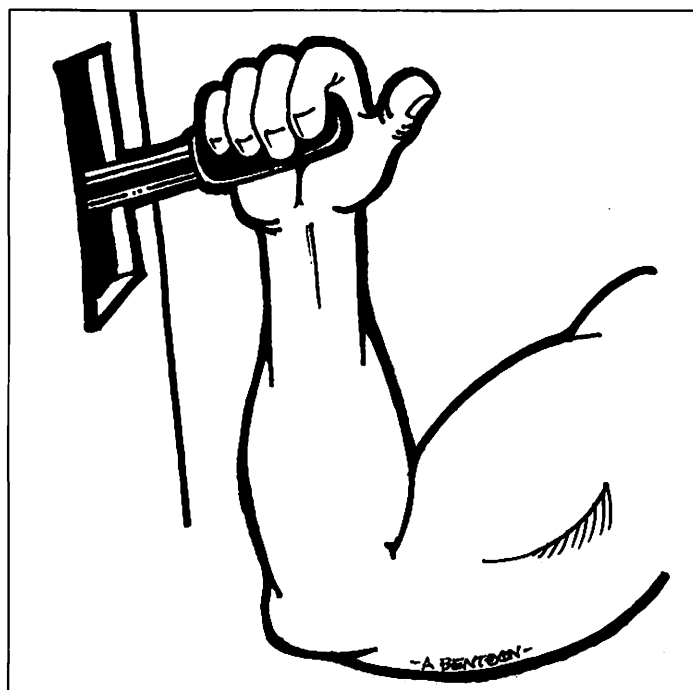
We last conducted one of these surveys in 1990. Back then, Alberts finished second in the "Most gullible" category. Now he's an All-American, Butkus Award winner, and according

to the team, would make the "Best door-to-door salesman." This year freshman linebacker Ryan Terwilliger was voted the "Most gullible." Could this be an indication of big things in the future for the freshman? We'll see.

Noseguard Christian Peter may not have seen enough playing time this year to find his name in many of the top defensive statistical categories, but he came away as the landslide top vote getter in three of the 28 categories, including "Biggest eater," and "Person you would not let your daughter date." ■

CASTING THEIR BALLOTS

Results from a player survey reveal some interesting facts you probably did not know



Who is the hardest worker in practice?

- 1) Kevin Ramaekers

Who is the hardest worker in the weight room?

- 1) Brenden Stai

Who is the most like "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" — mean on the field, but a nice guy off it?

- 1) Terry Connealy

Who is the biggest eater at the training table?

- 1) Christian Peter

Who tells the worst jokes?

- Tie) Coach Kevin Steele

Coach George Darlington

Who does the best impression and of whom?

- 1) Jon Pedersen of Coach Dan Young

- 2) Sedric Collins of Coach Steele

Who sings the best?

- 1) Corey Dixon

Who sings the most (not necessarily the best?)

- 1) Tommie Frazier

Who sings the worst?

- 1) Darren Williams

- 2) Tommie Frazier

Who is the best basketball player?

- 1) Brook Berringer
- 2) Lorenzo Brinkley
- 3) Mark Gilman

Who would you not let your daughter date?

- 1) Christian Peter

Who is the best dancer?

- 1) Phil Ellis
- 2) Darren Williams

Who has the best printable nickname and what is it?

- 1) Joel Wilks (Buddha)

Who is the most likely to be in politics someday?

- 1) Troy Branch

Who watches the most television?

- 1) Mike Anderson

Who reads the sports pages the most?

- 1) Troy Branch

Who eats the healthiest?

- 1) Rob Zatechka

Who might be a millionaire someday?

- 1) Trev Alberts

Who has the messiest room?

- 1) Lance Lundberg

Who is the loudest person?

- 1) Dwayne Harris

Who is the most gullible?

- 1) Ryan Terwilliger

Who is the best practical joker?

- 1) Kevin Ramaekers

Who is the first to get taped on Saturdays?

- 1) Lance Lundberg

Who is the last?

- 1) Donta Jones

Who would be the best door-to-door salesman?

- 1) Trev Alberts
- 2) Coach Kevin Steele

Who would you trust house sitting for you?

- 1) Matt Shaw

Who would you not?

- 1) Christian Peter

Who gets your vote as player of the year?

Offense:

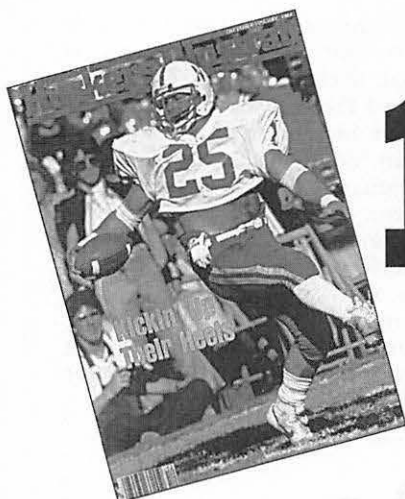
- 1) Tommie Frazier
- (Tie 2nd) Lance Lundberg
- Corey Dixon

Defense:

- 1) Trev Alberts
- 2) Toby Wright

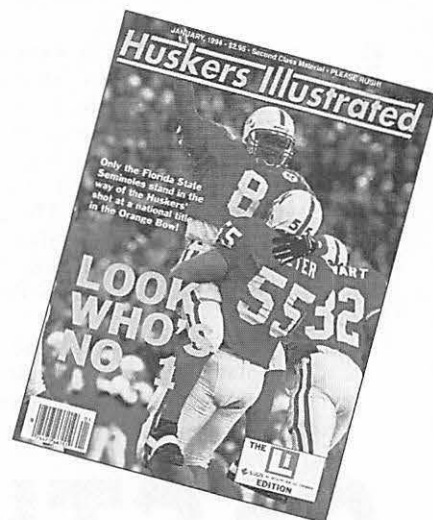
Scout Team:

- 1) Aaron Penland



1983 VS. 1993

A TALE OF TWO TEAMS



Twice within the span of a decade, Nebraska has had its shot at a mythical national title. In 1983 the Huskers rode to a perfect 12-0 season on the strength of an offense aptly titled the "Scoring Explosion." Ten years later a team, considered no threat to title hopes by many, scratched and clawed to 11-0, but on the strength of a relentless, revamped defense. Unfortunately, both teams came away from the Orange Bowl losers.

Kevin Ramaekers celebrated his 14th birthday two weeks before the 1984 Orange Bowl game between Miami and top-ranked and undefeated Nebraska.

He remembers the game well, he said during a news conference in Miami the week before the 1994 Orange Bowl game. He watched it on television, with his "meat-head" brothers.

After the Cornhuskers' dramatic comeback fell short, when Turner Gill's two-point conversion pass was deflected off Jeff Smith's shoulder pads in the end zone, "I remember going to my room and crying," Ramaekers said.

"That's your team, your guys out there. It really hurts."

Ramaekers' words described not only his feelings 10 years ago but also those of some as yet unknown young Nebraskan who watched as Ramaekers and his Cornhusker teammates saw their bid for a national championship fall a field goal short against Florida State on the night of Jan. 1, 1994.

Byron Bennett's 45-yard kick, as the final second ticked off the scoreboard clock, went left of the goal posts in the same end zone where Gill's final, incomplete pass landed.

Ten years later, Nebraska suffered a similar fate.

Mike McCashland saw the similarities in the two

games, but from a different perspective. McCashland, who manages his own Runza restaurants in Omaha now, watched the 1994 game, after playing in the 1984 game.

McCashland was Nebraska's starting monster back on Jan. 2, 1984. The subject of the 1984 Orange Bowl "has come up a lot more this season because it's a mirror image of 1983," McCashland said recently.

Friends regularly asked about the 1984 Orange Bowl, said McCashland, an unwilling participant in an ill-advised attempt at defensive deception during Nebraska's 31-30 loss.

McCashland wore jersey No. 33 that night. During the season, David Burke, a cornerback, wore the number. Against Miami, Burke wore No. 2, which was McCashland's number.

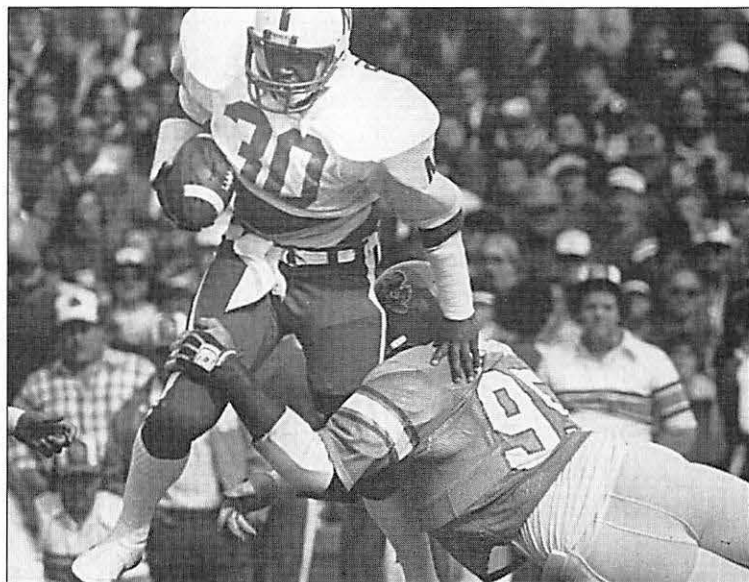
The official program listed McCashland as No. 2, Burke as No. 33. It was confusing to those unfamiliar with the Cornhuskers.

The jersey switch was devised late in the season, to help disguise Nebraska's blitz package. But the Cornhuskers didn't use it until the Orange Bowl. The plan was to confuse Miami quarterback Bernie Kosar, a redshirt freshman. "It didn't fool anybody," McCashland said.

Kosar completed 19-of-30 passes for 300 yards and two

“I remember going to my room and crying. That’s your team, your guys out there. It really hurts.”

— 1993 senior Kevin Ramaekers on watching the 1983 team lose in the Orange Bowl when he was only 14-years-old.



touchdowns.

“We just weren’t able to stop them,” McCashland said.

McCashland thought Nebraska’s defense would be able to stop Florida State. “I had a gut feeling that they’ve got a chance,” he said.

“I really did.”

And so the Cornhuskers did, giving a valiant effort that will be remembered in the same way that the 1984 Orange Bowl game is.

In many ways, 1983 and 1993 were similar. Both saw Nebraska go through the regular season undefeated. And both ended in the Orange Bowl stadium, with a contest against a Florida team for the national title.

Both seasons ended in narrow, disappointing defeat, but both times in losing, the Cornhuskers gained the respect of much of the nation.

Wrote Ken Denlinger of *The Washington Post* after Tom

Osborne went for the two-point conversion instead of kicking for a tie in the 1984 Orange

Bowl game: “The Cornhuskers cost themselves the national championship but won something more worthy: a nation’s admiration.”

Bill Lyon of the *Knight-Ridder Newspapers* wrote of Nebraska after the 1984 game: “Strangely, perversely, in the process of losing, Osborne and his team may have gained something that they never would have had if they had gone out there and steamrolled to another runaway victory.

“Yes, one more rout would have ensured their immediate enshrinement as the best college football team of all time,” Lyon continued.

There was a parallel to that in the 1994 Orange Bowl game, but with Florida State not Nebraska.

The Seminoles were on their way to such an enshrinement until a trip to South Bend, Ind., in November ended in a 31-24 loss to Notre Dame.

Florida State, however, was given a second chance, a rarity in a system based on the polls and requiring that if a team loses, it must lose early. Only one other team has lost a game in November and come back to be awarded a national title. Southern Cal was so excused in 1967.

Nebraska was a heavy favorite against Miami going into the 1984 Orange Bowl. Florida State was an even heavier favorite going into the 1994 game against the Cornhuskers.

Miami pulled the miraculous upset. Ten years later, Nebraska did not. But the Cornhuskers had a greater challenge, and without the home-field advantage the Hurricanes had.

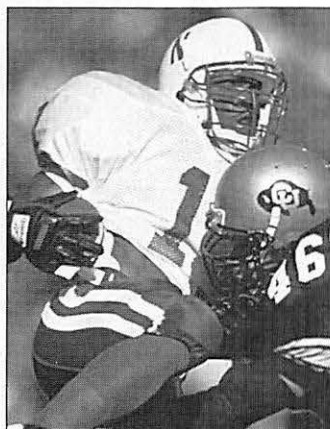
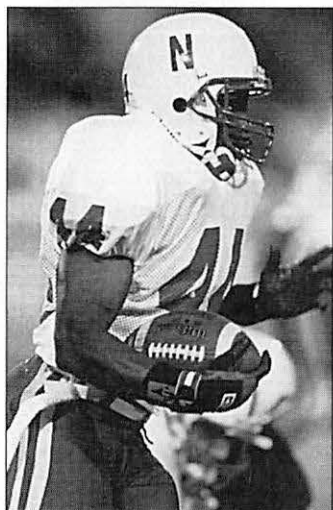
Nebraska was No. 1 from the beginning of the 1983 season, which began with a 44-6 victory against Penn State in the first Kickoff Classic, until the 1984 Orange Bowl.

The Cornhuskers were attempting to become the first team to be ranked No. 1 throughout a season.

Florida State, which also opened with an impressive victory in the Kickoff Classic (42-0 over Kansas), could have accomplished that feat, but for the trip to South Bend.

Nebraska was characterized by offense in 1983. The Cornhusker offense was aptly nicknamed the “Scoring Explosion.” Nebraska led the nation in scoring, averaging 52 points per game. It was No. 1 in rushing, with 401.7 yards per game, and second in total offense, with 546.7.

Against Colorado in Lincoln in 1983, Nebraska led only 14-12 at halftime. The Cornhuskers scored 48 points



The combined rushing of the top three I-backs in 1993, Calvin Jones (top), Lawrence Phillips (center) and Damon Benning (left) was still 220 yards less than Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier’s (top of page) 1983 regular season total of 2,148.



SIDE-BY-SIDE

A breakdown of schedules and statistical leaders from both the 1983 and 1993 teams.

1983 (12-1)

A	29	Penn State*	W	44-6
S	10	Wyoming	W	56-20
S	17	@Minnesota	W	84-13
S	24	UCLA	W	42-10
O	1	Syracuse	W	63-7
O	8	@Oklahoma St.	W	14-10
O	15	@Missouri	W	34-13
O	22	Colorado	W	69-19
O	29	@Kansas St.	W	51-25
N	5	Iowa St.	W	72-29
N	12	Kansas	W	67-13
N	26	@Oklahoma	W	28-21
J	2	Miami, Fla.**	L	30-31

*Kickoff Classic **Orange Bowl

1993 (11-1)

S	4	North Texas	W	76-14
S	11	Texas Tech	W	50-27
S	18	@UCLA	W	14-13
S	25	Colorado St.	W	48-13
O	7	@Oklahoma St.	W	27-13
O	16	Kansas St.	W	45-28
O	23	Missouri	W	49-7
O	30	@Colorado	W	21-7
N	6	@Kansas	W	21-20
N	13	Iowa St.	W	49-17
N	26	Oklahoma	W	21-7
J	1	Florida St.*	L	18-16

**Orange Bowl

	Year	Record	Career
Tom Osborne	1983	12-1	108-25-2
Tom Osborne	1993	11-1	206-47-3

RUSHING	Year	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Tds.
Mike Rozier	1983	275	2148	7.8	29
Calvin Jones	1993	185	1056	5.6	12

PASSING	Year	Att.	Comp	Yds.	Tds.
Turner Gill	1983	170	94	1516	14
Tommie Frazier	1993	162	77	1159	12

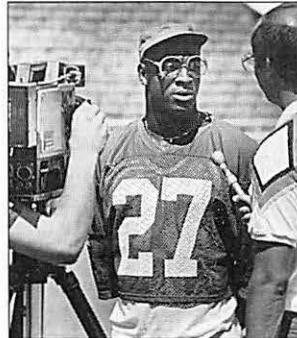
RECEIVING	Year	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Tds.
Irving Fryar	1983	40	780	19.5	8
A. Muhammad	1993	25	383	15.3	3

PUNT RETURNS	Year	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Tds.
Jeff Smith	1983	19	264	13.9	1
Corey Dixon	1993	24	223	9.3	0

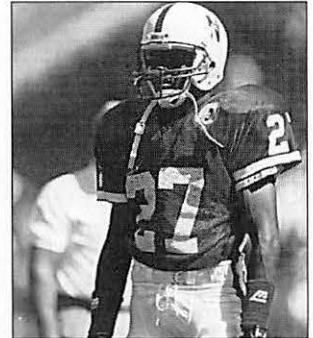
K.OFF RETURNS	Year	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Tds.
Mike Rozier	1983	11	232	21.1	0
Damon Benning	1993	9	192	21.3	0

PUNTING	Year	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LP.
Scott Livingston	1983	34	1388	40.8	60
Byron Bennett	1993	46	1896	39.3	61

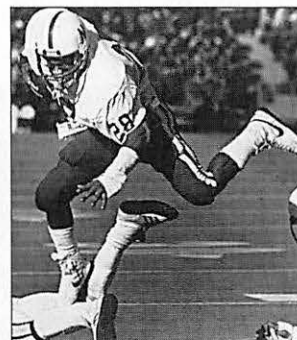
DEFENSE	Year	Tackles	Sacks/Yds. Lost
Mike Knox	1983	125	1/16
Mark Daum	1983	93	2/9
Trev Alberts	1993	96	15/88
Toby Wright	1993	79	0/0



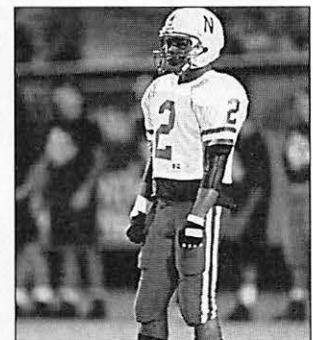
FRYAR



MUHAMMAD



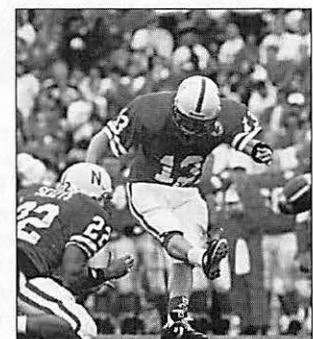
SMITH



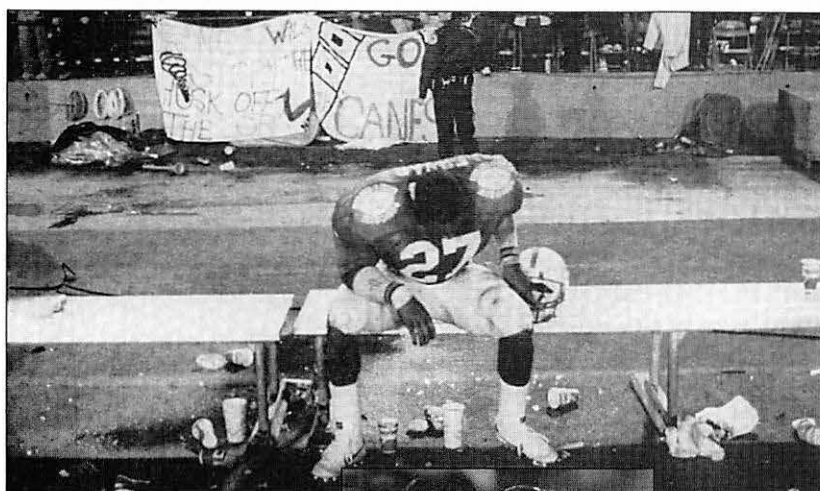
DIXON



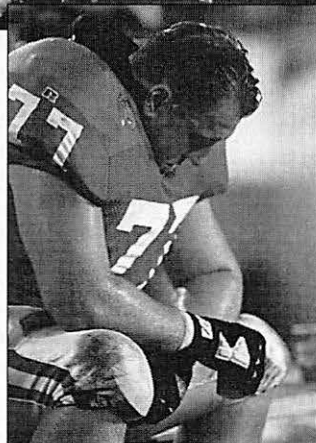
LIVINGSTON



BENNETT



A lone Irving Fryar (above) on the bench following the failed two-point conversion told the story in 1984, just as offensive tackle Lance Lundberg's did following the wide left field goal attempt in 1994.



in the third quarter. Before the quarter was two and one-half minutes old, they had scored three touchdowns.

Nebraska won that game 69-19. It defeated Minnesota 84-13. It scored 27 points in the fourth quarter and defeated Iowa State 72-29. The next week, it beat Kansas 67-13.

The Cornhuskers had only two close games during the regular season in 1983, both on the road. They needed a pass interception in the end zone by safety Bret Clark on the final play of the game to beat Oklahoma State 14-10. And they needed a deflected pass in the end zone by cornerback Neil Harris on fourth-and-goal with 32 seconds left to defeat Oklahoma 28-21.

Such finishes were commonplace for Nebraska during the 1993 season. In 1993, it was defense, not offense, that characterized the Cornhuskers.

In 1993, the rallying cry was: "We Refuse to Lose." And that refusal was based on a defense unlike any other Nebraska has had, with the possible exception of the one in 1984.

Against UCLA, it was defense that preserved a 14-13 victory, as it was against Kansas — defense and a little good fortune. The Cornhuskers won in Lawrence 21-20, when a two-point conversion attempt failed at the end.

Against Oklahoma, the Cornhuskers managed only 179 yards of offense, yet they won, 21-7. How? With an aggressive 4-3 defense, which harassed and sacked the Sooners' All-Big Eight quarterback, Cale Gundy.

Defense? Nebraska?

Despite an offense built around Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Dean Steinkuhler and first-round NFL draft pick Irving Fryar, the 1983

Nebraska team came up short of perfection defensively.

McCashland, who was a junior in 1983, said a combination of Nebraska's offense in 1983 and its defense in 1984 would have been unbeatable. In 1984, Nebraska ranked among the nation's best defensively, with most of the same players from the previous year. The difference was maturity.

"We don't get any respect as a team, and we certainly get less respect than our offense," veteran defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. "You see a spring game and everybody cheers when somebody catches a pass. See a sack and everybody is wondering what's wrong with the offense."

"The defense at Nebraska, and at most colleges for that matter, just isn't glamorous enough to get attention," said McBride.

But in 1993, Cornhusker fans came to appreciate the skills of a defender such as outside linebacker Trev Alberts, the Butkus Award winner.

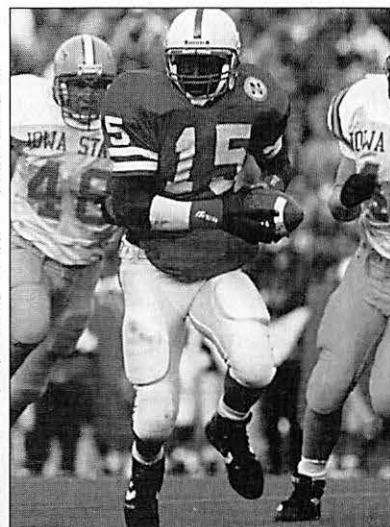
Defense, and an offense that never played better during the regular season, almost pulled a miraculous upset of Florida State in the Orange Bowl game on New Year's night.

After the 18-16 loss, many in the national media who had been unkind, if not malicious toward Nebraska, changed their opinion. As was the case after the 1984 game, the Cornhuskers earned the respect of many.

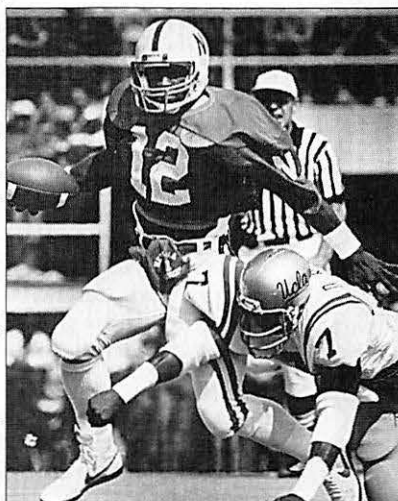
Wrote John Eisenberg of *The Baltimore Sun*: "The Cornhuskers deserved to win. They were sounder, more balanced and more consistent than Florida State. Only less lucky."

McCashland said a Cornhusker victory in the Orange Bowl "would mean a lot to the whole state." The players would be remembered forever.

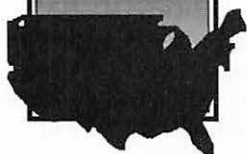
That will be true, even though they came up a field goal short. Just as the 1983 team is remembered among the best teams in Cornhusker history, so will be the one in 1993. ■



While Turner Gill (left) was a senior when he got his shot at the title, sophomore Tommie Frazier (above) brought the same fire and desire to the Orange Bowl a decade later.



RECRUITING



Erstad Moves From Baseball to Handle Kicking Chores in 1994

Following January, which is the most interesting time of the recruiting season, Nebraska enters the important time on a bit of a roll.

Although the kick didn't go their way in the national title game loss against Florida State, the Cornhuskers' effort brought back some respect that's been missing over the past couple of years.

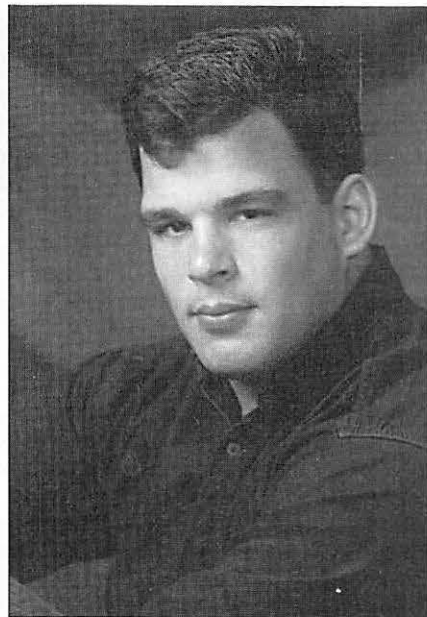
With the Huskers pushing the 17 1/2 point favorite Seminoles to the limit, Nebraska showed every college football fan in the country that its program can and will compete for national titles.

Included among those watching were college football recruits across the country.

The Huskers are on a national recruiting campaign, and by playing in a real donnybrook in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day, a great impression was left with those prep All-Americans across the country.

The Huskers enter February with four prep commitments already under their belt and one transfer from the Cornhusker baseball team.

Darin Erstad is the starting leftfielder for John Sanders' baseball squad. Next season he may still be the starting leftfielder, but he will also attempt to kick for Tom Osborne and company. Erstad has



Cream of the Crop

Quarterbacks

Josh Booty, 6-3, 205, 4.6, Shreveport, La.
Ryan Clement, 6-2, 185, 4.7, Denver, Colo.
Peyton Manning, 6-5, 200, 4.8, New Orleans, La.

Running Backs

Aaron Adams, 6-2, 195, 4.4, New Orleans, La.
Fred Beasley, 6-0, 195, 4.5, Montgomery, Ala.
Jerod Douglas, 5-10, 175, 4.4, Converse, Texas

Receivers

Magic Benton, 6-1, 174, 4.35, Miami, Fla.
Zola Davis, 6-2, 190, 4.4, Charleston, S.C.
Marcus Nash, 6-3, 190, 4.4, Edmond, Okla.

Tight Ends

Stephen Alexander, 6-6, 225, 4.62, Chickasha, Ok.
Larry Brown, 6-6, 228, 4.65, Atlanta, Ga.
Ahndre Patterson, 6-4, 253, 4.7, Dallas, Texas

Offensive Linemen

Bo Barzilaukas, 6-6, 273, 5.0, Bloomington, Ind.
Russell Gaskamp, 6-5, 270, 5.0, Weatherford, Ok.
Orlando Pace, 6-8, 300, 4.8, Sandusky, Ohio

Defensive Linemen

Chris Akins, 6-3, 305, 4.9, Paris, Texas
Marin Chase, 6-3, 280, 4.9, Lawton, Ok.
Juaquin Feazell, 6-4, 240, 4.8, Ft. Valley, Ga.

Linebackers

Jeff Coleman, 6-4, 230, 4.7, Gaffney, S.C.
Lamont Green, 6-3, 226, 4.6, Miami, Fla.
Vernon Rollins, 6-3, 220, 4.6, Hackensack, N.J.

Defensive Backs

Amp Campbell, 6-2, 186, 4.4, Sarasota, Fla.
Jarvis Edison, 6-5, 210, 4.5, Bay City, Texas
Robert Hammond, 6-3, 185, 4.5, Opelousas, La.

Kickers

Adam Abrams, 5-9, 170, 4.9, La Jolla, Calif.
Jeff Hall, 6-1, 176, 4.6, Winchester, Tenn.

Athletes

Tim Alexander, 6-1, 170, 4.5, Sarasota, Fla.
Tim Dwight, 5-10, 175, 4.3, Iowa City, Iowa
Ty Goode, 6-0, 175, 4.5, Lincoln, Neb.

accepted a football scholarship so he can handle the place kicking duties for the Huskers next season.

Travis Toline (6-4, 210, 4.8) a defensive lineman from Wahoo, Neb., was the first to commit to the Huskers. Toline will either beef up and play on the Husker defensive line or work as an outside linebacker.

Also committing to play in the Huskers' fabled offensive line are center **Ted Butler** (6-2, 245, 5.0) of Lincoln (Southeast), Neb., and **Brandt Wade** (6-2, 265, 5.1) of Springfield (Platteview), Neb.

Butler is a pure center prospect with loads of potential. Wade is the prototype Husker offensive lineman with size, strength and the desire to work.

Mike Rucker (6-5, 217, 4.7) of St. Joseph (Benton), Mo., is the first out-stater to commit to the Huskers.

Rucker played tight end, running back, split end, defensive end, linebacker and defensive tackle as a prep. On defense he managed over

100 tackles and is looking for a shot at outside linebacker for the Huskers.

The big recruiting story still centers around the status of in-state star **Ty Goode** (6-0, 175, 4.5) of Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.

Goode is regarded as one of the top 50 players in the country and is being recruited both as a receiver and as a defensive corner. On offense this past season, he managed 1,484 yards rushing and another 278 catching the ball. On defense he racked up 54 tackles and four interceptions, despite the fact teams were throwing the ball away from him.

Goode is the best prospect in-state. He's a must for the Huskers, but won't it be easy to sign jo./

"I really don't know what I am going to do," Goode said. "I have some great options to look at. Nebraska is a great school, with a great football program in my backyard. While I also think UCLA and Notre Dame also have some great qualities. I am going to take all my visits before deciding what to do."

With Trev Alberts' success with the Huskers during the last couple of years, Nebraska should have great success with outside linebacker types.

Brandt Wade, out of Springfield, Neb., is the prototype Husker offensive lineman at 6-foot-2, 265 pounds.

One of the best in the country is **Grant Winstrom** (6-5, 230, 4.8) of Webb City, Mo. A first-team *USA Today* All-America selection, Winstrom is regarded as the best pass rushing specialist. He can also play tight end. Winstrom has already visited Michigan, Miami and Nebraska, with the Wolverines the slight leader. Stanford and Oklahoma were also set to receive visits in January.

Jerame Tuman (6-5, 220, 4.6) of Liberal, Kan., is a similar talent who is also ranked as a prep All-America. Tuman may be recruited more as a tight end, but is highly regarded as an outside linebacker prospect.

Wide open about his recruiting, Tuman has already visited OU, with Michigan, Nebraska, Notre Dame and Texas.

At inside linebacker the Cornhuskers are in the hunt for a mountain of a man in **Demetro Stephens** (6-3, 225, 4.7) of Sandersville Washington County, Ga.

Stephens managed 249 tackles (156 solo) this past season. Stephens has already visited the Huskers and is a big fan of Coach Osborne. He is also considering Georgia, Tennessee, Florida State and possibly Auburn.

On the defensive line, the Huskers are trying to grab several out of the state of Oklahoma.

The Sooner state is loaded with All-America defensive linemen. The Huskers are very much in the running for three of the four best.

Dustin Loveless (6-1, 298, 4.8) of Norman, Okla., was named the Blue Chip Big Eight Player of the Year. He'll decide between the Huskers and Sooners.

Diron Robinson (6-3, 248, 4.9) of Midwest City has his choices narrowed down to OU, Nebraska and Colorado.

Johnathan Brown (6-3, 250, 4.9) of Tulsa (Booker T. Washington) visited Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio State, UCLA and Tennessee. Brown also took unofficial visits to OU and Oklahoma State.

At quarterback, the Huskers are in on some of the best prospects in the country.

Hines Ward (6-0, 185, 4.5) of Forrest Park, Ga., hit on 122-of-204 passes for 1,575 yards and 14 touchdowns operating out of the Run-and-Shoot. Ward took an early visit to Nebraska and Notre Dame and has visits planned to Georgia, Tennessee and Florida State.

Tim Alexander (6-0, 185, 4.5) of Sarasota (Riverview), Fla., is leaning

toward following in Tommie Frazier's footsteps, as he favors the Huskers over Oregon State, Clemson, OU and Arkansas.

Brandon Stewart (6-2, 205, 4.6) of Stephenville, Texas, completes the quarterback picture. Stewart accounted for 44 touchdowns and almost 4,000 yards of total offense in leading Stephenville to the Texas Class 4A State Championship. He favors Nebraska, OU and Tennessee but Baylor and Texas A&M also got visits.

One of the best defensive linemen in Alabama also has an eye toward the Huskers.

Sage Spree (6-5, 277, 5.1) of Eutaw (Warrior Academy), Ala., is regarded as one of the top 30 players

in the South. He's visited Nebraska, Notre Dame, Auburn, Tennessee and Stanford.

Chris Edwards (6-2, 221, 4.6) of Bessemer (Jess Lanier), Ala., managed 150 tackles (105 solo) this past season. He's visited Arkansas, Florida State, Tennessee, Nebraska and Alabama.

It looks like the Huskers are very much in the hunt for **Jay Smith** (6-5, 270, 4.9) of Arlington (Lamar), Texas. Regarded as the top offensive line prospect in Texas, Smith has visited Nebraska and Arizona State. He admits the Huskers have a slight lead. Oklahoma expects to be in the hunt, with Florida State and Texas A&M also getting visits. ■

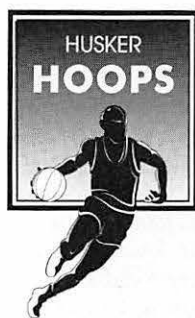


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Spartans Provide Springboard for Husker Turnaround

With only two seconds remaining, Beau Reid hit a shot from 24 feet away on the right side of the basket to give Nebraska a 71-69 victory against Michigan State at the Devaney Sports Center on Nov. 28, 1990.

The Spartans were ranked fifth nationally at the time and were defending Big Ten champions.

The game was the Cornhuskers' home opener and was played before an audience of 14,561. It was a turning point that season, which ended in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Nebraska finished with a 26-8 record in 1990-91, Danny Nee's fifth season as head coach.

The game was also a turning point in Nee's program, enabling the Cornhuskers to move to the next level, by initiating an on-going streak of three NCAA appearances.

The Cornhuskers didn't exactly re-enact that 1990 victory against Michigan State this season. But their trip to East Lansing, Mich., in mid-December might have produced a victory of similar importance to this season. Only time will tell.

But if Nebraska is able to earn a fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament bid, it can look back on its 85-



Basketball photos by Robert Berry

81 non-conference victory against the 6-2 Spartans as the springboard.

The Cornhuskers went into Michigan State's Breslin Center uncertain of what direction the season was taking. They came away with a confidence fashioned by a remarkable effort that saw them survive an 18-0 second-half run by Michigan State.

After building a 47-35 halftime lead, Nebraska fell behind 57-54 with 13:34 remaining when the

Forward Bruce Chubick spearheaded the Huskers' team win with a career-high 19 points against Michigan State.

Spartans scored 18 unanswered points.

The Cornhuskers responded with their own 9-0 run to regain some measure of control in, what was for them, a fifth consecutive victory.

Michigan State's record at the

STATISTICS

NEBRASKA 1993-94 SEASON STATS

(Through 13 games) Record: 11-2 • Home: 8-1 • Away: 3-1 • Neutral: 0-0 • Big Eight: 2-0

PLAYER	G/GS	Min./Avg.	FG-FGA/Pct.	3FG-FGA/Pct.	FT-FTA/Pct.	Reb./Avg.	PF	Ast.	TO	Blks.	Stls.	Pts./Avg.
52 Eric Piatkowski	13/13	393/30.2	96-184/.522	29-69/.420	53-66/.803	80/6.2	28	36	37	9	22	274/21.1
44 Bruce Chubick	13/13	304/23.4	51-90/.567	1-5/.200	43-56/.768	89/6.8	29	9	19	6	12	146/11.2
24 Jaron Boone	13/11	356/27.4	53-113/.469	9-30/.300	13-19/.684	31/2.4	24	42	34	2	16	128/9.8
21 Erick Strickland	13/10	289/22.2	37-95/.389	16-47/.340	29-38/.763	54/4.2	34	56	35	6	37	119/9.2
12 Jamar Johnson	11/5	258/23.5	40-77/.519	10-24/.417	20-25/.800	28/2.5	13	50	19	3	13	110/10.0
43 Terrance Badgett	12/3	204/17.0	47-86/.547	2-12/.167	12-25/.480	45/3.8	30	22	21	9	8	108/9.0
30 Jason Glock	13/0	215/16.5	31-58/.534	8-22/.364	7-8/.875	31/2.4	20	22	8	1	8	77/5.9
33 Tom Best	13/10	254/19.5	29-76/.382	1-11/.091	13-17/.765	64/4.9	32	13	19	3	5	72/5.5
34 Melvin Brooks	13/0	240/18.5	25-56/.446	4-14/.286	12-16/.750	57/4.4	34	29	18	4	12	66/5.1
32 Mikki Moore	8/0	68/8.5	7-16/.438	0-2/.000	9-16/.563	8/1.0	10	0	5	7	3	23/2.9

TEAM	G/GS	Min./Avg.	FG-FGA/Pct.	3FG-FGA/Pct.	FT-FTA/Pct.	Reb./Avg.	PF	Ast.	TO	Blks.	Stls.	Pts./Avg.
NEBRASKA	13	2600	420-860/.488	81-239/.339	212-288/.736	531/40.8	255	279	218	50	137	1133/87.2
OPPONENT	13	2600	340-820/.415	75-248/.302	206-303/.680	490/37.7	255	182	258	29	111	961/73.9

KEY: G/GS = Games/ Games Started • PF = Personal Fouls • Ast. = Assists • TO = Turnovers • Blks. = Blocks • Stls. = Steals

Breslin Center, which Nebraska helped to dedicate four years earlier by losing to the Spartans, was 25-1 against non-conference competition. The Spartans had easily defeated three opponents there prior to Nebraska's visit.

Nee, who described the team's play in the first half as "the best basketball we've played in a long time," was ecstatic afterward.

"We had as happy a locker room as I've ever been around. The NCAA Committee can't take away this one at the end of the season because I still feel they'll be in the tournament," Nee said of the Spartans.

The victory was good for Nebraska's power rating and helped to offset an earlier non-conference loss at home against Texas. Nebraska's 1-2 start — the Cornhuskers were upset at Appalachian State — had some wondering if it would be involved in post-season competition of any kind.

Winning at Michigan State quickly changed doubt into optimism. Bruce Chubick, who scored a career-high 19 points, said the Spartans were a "respectable opponent."

"You can take it all the way back to Magic Johnson, the national championship," Chubick said. "This

may not be the best Michigan State team in 20 years, but they're pretty good. I'd look for them to be in the NCAA, and that's going to be huge because we've never had a nonconference win like that on the road.

"I knew all along we had one of these in us, but it was just a matter of playing the thing out. I was worried it was buried in there kind of deep and that we were going to have to excavate to get to it," he said.

The victory required a team effort. Sophomore Erick Strickland scored 19 points and pulled down a career-high 10 rebounds. Senior Eric Piatkowski scored 18 points.

Said Piatkowski: "We came up here two years ago and they destroyed us. They might've been a little better but this is a road game in the Big Ten. I think game-by-game, we're getting better. We played a quarter of a game (in) one game. After that, we played a half (of) a game. Tonight, I think we played a whole game."

Around the horn . . .

Nebraska played the first regular-season game against Michigan State in the Breslin Center, losing to the Spartans 80-69 in 1989.

The Cornhuskers also lost there in 1991 — the score was 101-78.

Piatkowski and Michigan State's Shawn Respert were teammates at the World University Games last summer, helping the United States team win the gold medal. They roomed together.

"Offensively, he's a great player," Piatkowski told the *Lincoln Journal-Star* or the 6-foot-2 Respert.

"I've never seen a guy who likes to shoot as much as Respert does. He had no conscience."

Respert scored 28 points in the loss against the Cornhuskers.

Nebraska's power rating got an unexpected boost from Ohio University, which the Cornhuskers defeated easily in the first round of the Ameritas Classic. Over the Christmas holidays, Ohio upset nationally ranked Connecticut in Hawaii.

Nebraska opened Big Eight play with a 78-72 victory against Iowa State in Ames, Iowa. The victory, televised on ESPN, snapped the Cyclones' 22-game winning streak at Hilton Coliseum.

It was the third time in four years that the Cornhuskers had defeated Iowa State in Ames. Last season, however, Nebraska lost there 96-69.

Piatkowski scored 28 points.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

RECORD: 11-2

Nov. 27	Texas-San Antonio	W	
Nov. 28	Texas	L	
Dec. 1	@ Appalachian St.	L	81-92

Ameritas Classic (#)

Dec. 3	#vs. Ohio	W	96-68
Dec. 4	#vs. Portland	W	111-85
Dec. 9	@ Creighton	W	67-53
Dec. 11	Wichita St.	W	94-72
Dec. 18	@ Michigan St.	W	85-81
Dec. 20	Florida A&M	W	86-61
Dec. 31	Northern Iowa	W	70-63
Jan. 3	@ Iowa St.	W	78-72
Jan. 5	Southern Utah	W	89-85
Jan. 8	Colorado	W	106-67

Jan. 15	Missouri		
Jan. 19	@ Colorado		
Jan. 24	Missouri		
Jan. 29	Oklahoma		
Feb. 6	@ Kansas		
Feb. 9	@ Kansas St.		
Feb. 12	Iowa St.		
Feb. 14	@ Oklahoma		
Feb. 19	@ Oklahoma St.		
Feb. 23	Kansas		
Feb. 26	Kansas St.		
Mar. 2	Oklahoma St.		
Mar. 5	@ Missouri		

Big Eight Tournament - Kansas City, Mo.

Mar. 11

The Cornhuskers' early-season success on the road was a result of team unity, according to Piatkowski.

"We're really close, as opposed to the last couple of teams that we've had," he said. "When we go out to play, the guys really pull together and all we're concerned with is winning the basketball game."

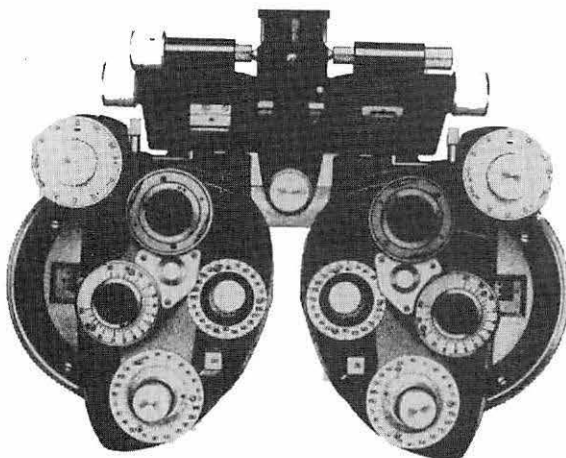
The Cornhuskers watched the Nebraska football team's 18-16 loss against Florida State in the Orange Bowl game at his house, Nee told the *Omaha World-Herald*.

"Our kids were so dejected when they left the house. They really felt bad for the football team," he said. "A couple of our kids brought that up on our trip to Iowa State, so I really do think there was some emotional carryover from that."

Nebraska extended its winning streak against intrastate rival Creighton to four with a 67-53 victory at Civic Auditorium in Omaha.

The Cornhuskers could have played "name that score" against the overmatched Rattlers. But Florida A&M coach Ron Brown "is a friend of mine. For me to beat him by 40 points does nothing to help Nebraska basketball," Nee told the *Lincoln Journal-Star*.

Chubick was among the university's December graduates, receiving a degree in history. He was unable to attend the graduation ceremonies, however, because of the Michigan State game. ■



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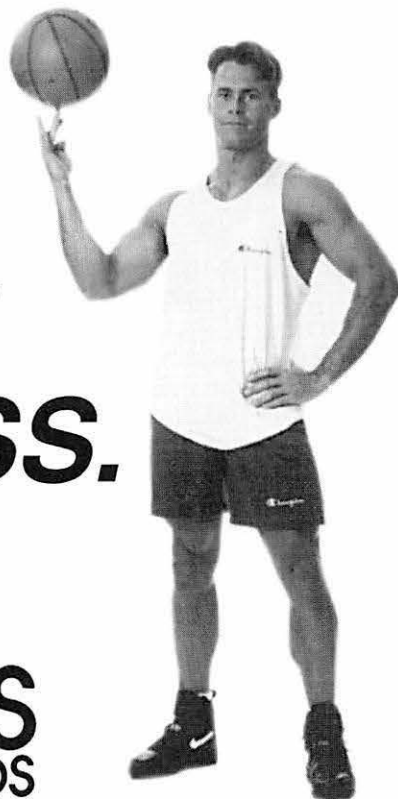
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Did The Superior Team Go Home Empty Handed?

The Nebraska football team left the field at the Orange Bowl stadium on New Year's night without a mythical national championship.

But the Cornhuskers didn't need the approval of those who vote in the polls by which national titles are awarded. Because their performance was national championship caliber.

"A lot of people can't relate to what it means to play at a top level," Coach Tom Osborne said early the next morning, after filming his television show beneath the coconut palms beside the swimming pool at the Sheraton Bal Harbour team headquarters on Miami Beach. "They think either you're a winner or a loser."

Nebraska was both, in a game hardly anyone except those on the team thought Nebraska could win.

Nebraska was an underdog by more than two touchdowns, and yet it came within seconds of winning. The Cornhuskers didn't lose, as the cliché goes; they just ran out of time.

By game's end, they were the superior team.

"There are those who find satisfaction only in trophies and rings," Osborne said. "But to keep playing at this level is important to me. I think there's Nebraska, Notre Dame and Florida State, all playing at the same level."

The next day, there was controversy over whether Florida State or Notre Dame deserved the mythical national championship. But it wouldn't have required much of a stretch of the imagination to include Nebraska.

One loss, by two points, in an environment more hostile than friendly, was not a significant difference.

"We did everything we could," said Osborne. "We had the snap, the hold and the kick. But the field goal wasn't good, and there went the national championship."

As defined by others.

"We didn't embarrass ourselves, and we played at the top level," Osborne said.

Nothing more could be asked.

Nebraska finished at the top, figuratively, though not literally, proving it belonged with the best and could change with the times.

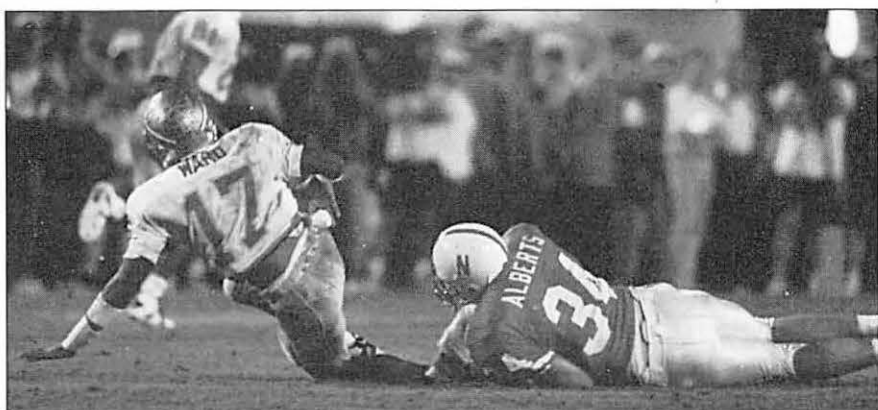


Photo by Scott Smith

The Cornhuskers had been preparing for their test in the Orange Bowl against Florida State, a team considered invincible until a 31-24 loss at Notre Dame in November, for several seasons. And they passed.

After six frustrating seasons of bowl-game losses, Osborne changed Nebraska's base defense, shelving the traditional 50 alignment, replacing it with a 4-3 and placing an even greater emphasis on recruiting speed.

"To win championships, you've got to play defense," Osborne said. And the Cornhuskers played defense like never before, against a Florida State team that led the nation in scoring offense during the season. The Seminoles ranked second in the nation in total offense, sixth in passing offense and 19th in rushing offense. Yet against Nebraska, they gained only 333 yards and scored only one touchdown — disputed, at that.

Television replays were inconclusive as to whether Seminole fullback William Floyd broke the plane of the goal with the ball, from 1 yard out, before fumbling it.

The Cornhusker defense played Florida State off its feet. And the Cornhusker offense showed that with the right quarterback, a run-oriented, option attack can be effective. Tommie Frazier played with remarkable poise, directing Nebraska's offense against a nationally ranked defense that had allowed an average of only 284.5 yards per

The Black Shirts made Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward and the Seminoles look human in the Orange Bowl.

game — and only 98.5 yards per game rushing.

The Cornhuskers rushed for 183 yards, almost twice that average, and gained 389 yards in the Orange Bowl.

By Nebraska's regular-season standards, those numbers might not be impressive. But in a bowl game, against an opponent ranked No. 1 in one of the major polls, they certainly are.

Osborne was composed, on only three hours of sleep, the morning after the game. He's almost always that way in defeat, when his Cornhuskers have played to the best of their ability given everything and left all they had on the playing field.

"I'm not down in the dumps," he said. "The only thing I feel bad about is, no matter how good a team you have, you're only in this position a few times."

The Cornhuskers were third in this season's final Associated Press poll, based on the votes of 62 media representatives. And they were third in the final CNN/USA Today poll, based on the votes of 62 coaches.

The coaches do not have to disclose their votes, and, the morning after the game, Osborne, who is one of the 62 who vote, said he would rather not say how his final ballot looked.

The Cornhuskers had one first-place vote in the coaches' poll.

They deserved it. ■